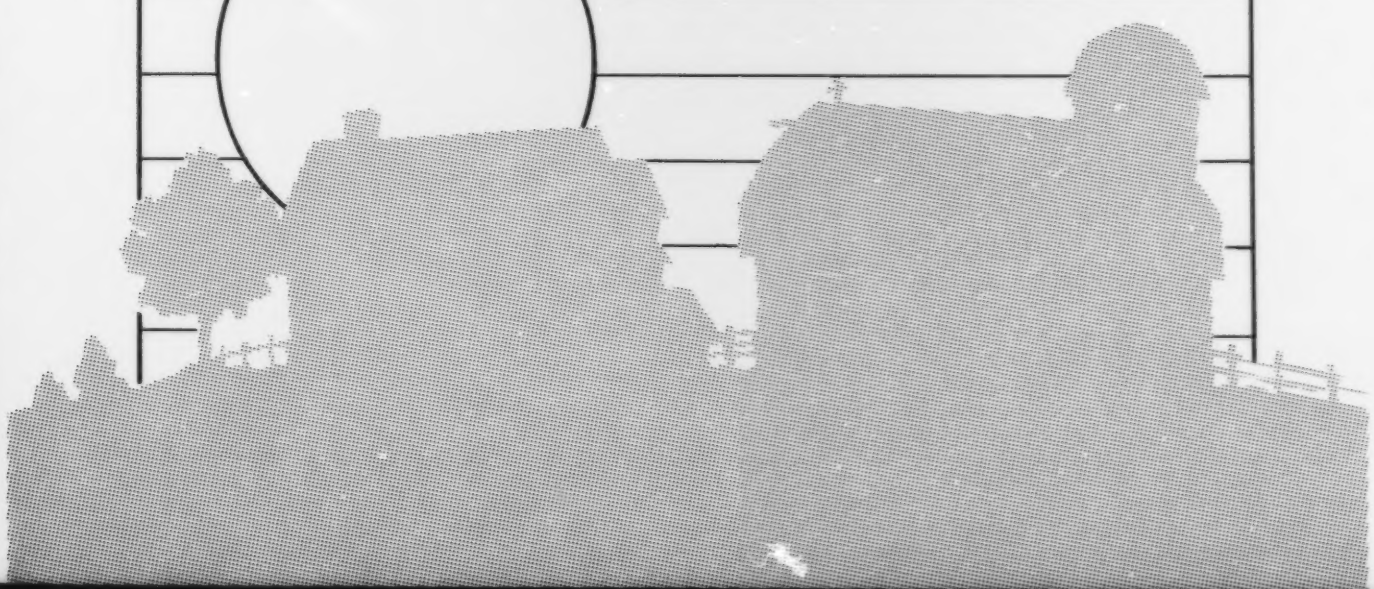
ANNUAL 1988 REPORT

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture Annual Report

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988
and Activities Report for the year ending
December 31, 1988

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ACTS

Pursuant to Executive Council Minute M37/84, the Department is responsible for the administration of the following Acts:

Agricultural Chemicals Act
Agricultural Standards Act
Agricultural Products Marketing Act
Agrologists Act
Apiary Inspection Act
Artificial Insemination Act
Bang's Disease Eradication Act
Crop Insurance Act
Dairy Industry Act
Dairy Producers Act
Division Fence Act (repealed 1987)
Dog Act
Domestic Animals Act (repealed 1987)
Farm Implement Act
Federal Dairying Company Act
Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act
Field-Root Seeds Zoning Act
Grain Elevators Act
Land Development Corporation Act
Livestock Branding or Tattooing Act
Livestock Community Auction Sales Act
Marketing Act
Mink Protection Act
Natural Products Marketing Act
Pesticides Control Act
Plant Disease Eradication Act
Potato Crop Mortgage Act
Potato Production Act
Poultry and Poultry Products Act
Racehorse Inspection Act
Veterinary Assistance Act
Veterinary Profession Act
Women's Institute Act

Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture
Charlottetown, 1988

To the Honourable Lloyd C. MacPhail
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island

Sir:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, comprised of financial statements for the period April 1, 1987 to March 31, 1988, and activities for the calendar year, 1988.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Hon. Joseph A. Ghiz
Minister of Agriculture

To The Honourable Joseph A. Ghiz
Minister of Agriculture

Sir:

I have the honour of submitting for your approval the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988. However, program activities are reported on a calendar year for the twelve months ending December 31, 1988.

A number of program initiatives were approved as part of the Department of Agriculture's appropriation during the 56th Session of the Legislative Assembly. Many of these initiatives were as a result of recommendations contained within the Report of the Driscoll Royal Commission on Potatoes.

The Marketing Act (1956) was repealed by proclaiming Section 18 of the Natural Products Marketing Act (1969), thereby designating potatoes as a product under the Natural Products Marketing Act. The National Farmers Union Act (1973) was repealed.

The Potato Producers Association drafted a marketing plan for potatoes which has been voted on in a plebiscite. However, the results have not been made public because of a court action initiated by the National Farmers Union. Consequently, the three-man Potato Marketing Commission is still in place.

One of the major recommendations of the Driscoll Royal Commission was the establishment of a producer-owned company. This has been put in place and is operating as a co-operative under the name of "Abegweit Potatoes".

The Elite Seed Farm was singled out as a major success story within the potato industry and, subsequently, has received from the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture an operating grant in the amount of $235,000.

Additionally, the Department of Agriculture introduced the following new initiatives:

Livestock

Equine Genetic Improvement Assistance Program
P.E.I. Fur Industry Development Program
Frozen Embryo Market Feasibility Study
Lean Beef Program

Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture Assistance Program
Sustainable Agriculture Transition Resource Development Program
Integrated Pest Management

Potato Industry Development Program

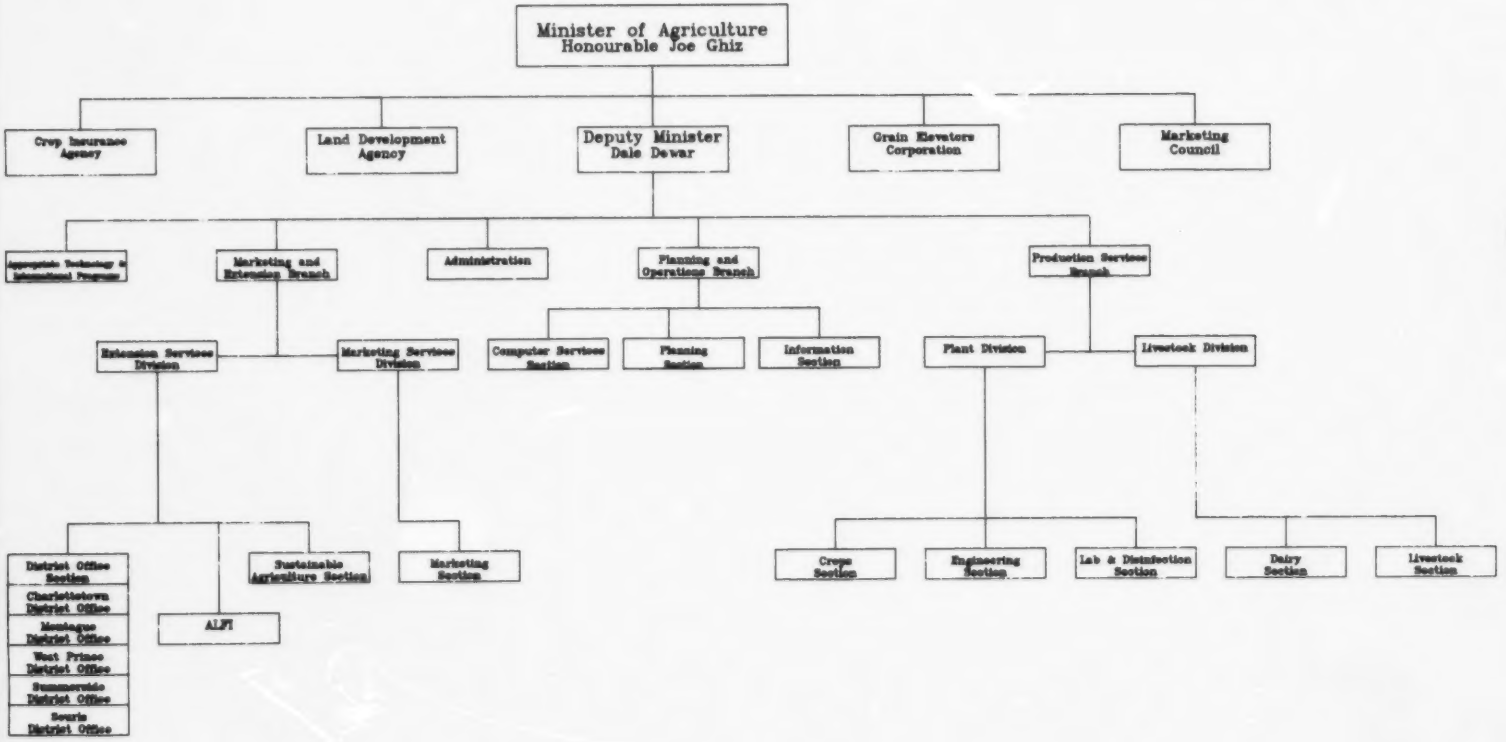
Potato Promotion and Marketing
Potato Variety Evaluation Project
Potato Industry Development (Fox Island)
Potato Pathology Nematode Project
Bacterial Ring Rot Fumigation Project
Appropriate Technology and International Programs
Evaluation of Potato Quality

Details of our programs and activities for the year are contained in the following report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Dewar
Deputy Minister

P.E.I. Department of Agriculture Organization Chart



P.E.I. Agriculture

1988 Annual Report

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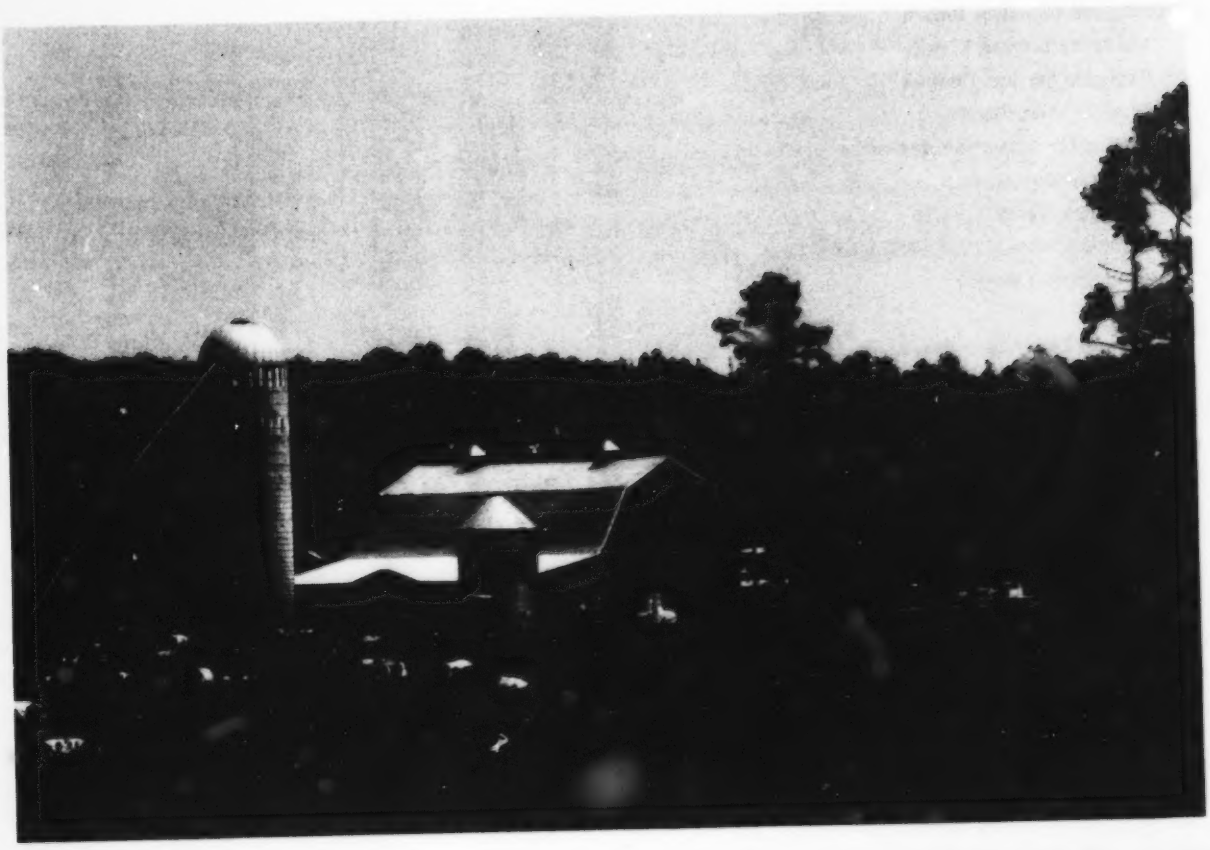


Administration Section

This section processes all the financial, personnel and administrative transactions of the Department, and prepares the annual budget for submission to Treasury Board. In addition, the Section carries out a monitoring function to ensure that expenditures are made in accordance with the budget and the Financial Administration Act. The Administration Section also provides the administrative support to the Natural Products Appeals Tribunal.

The Administration Section consists of two switchboard operators, one at 11 Kent Street and one at the Research Station, a mailman, two clerks and the Director.

The total authorized established positions for the Department is 158 part-time and full-time positions. The total strength of the staff at year end was 136 full-time and 22 part-time for a total of 158. The Department employed 23 summer students during the past year. We also employed 84 other people as relief and temporary employees for a maximum of 26 weeks each.

Natural Products Appeals Tribunal

The Appeals Tribunal received five notices of appeals in 1988. Two appeals were heard and a decision rendered. Another appeal was not proceeded with and the last two were received late in the year and hearings were scheduled for January 1989.

The Appeals Tribunal was comprised of Mike Sullivan, Chairman; Ray Brown and Reid Sangster, Members. Effective December 29, 1988 a new tribunal was appointed as follows: Wayne Beaton, Chairman; Mrs. Isabel Campbell and Danny Walker, Members.

Planning and Operations Branch

Planning

The Planning Section was involved in the following activities during 1988.

The Departmental Management Council met 26 times throughout the year to make recommendations to the Minister and Deputy Minister on administrative and policy matters. The Planning and Operations Branch assisted in preparing the documentation of items prior to the meetings, chaired the sessions, recorded, filed, and followed up the decisions of Management Council and made staff aware of the decisions.

Twenty-two issues of the staff newsletter 'HEIHO' were prepared, published and distributed. All members of the staff of the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture received the newsletter on a regular basis to keep them informed of activities, events and issues affecting the Department. This year for the first time, desktop publishing was used to enhance the quality of esentation.

All of the Financial Assistance Programs of the Department were reviewed and brought up to date in 1988 and presented in a standard format for easy reference. Programs available but not previously written up were also completed. Sunset clauses were added to ensure an analysis of the program's effectiveness in the future rather than automatic continuation on a year-to-year bsis.

During the year the position of Federal Provincial Negotiator was vacant for several months, but was filled in summer. Consultations were held with farm organizations during July and August re issues and concerns in the development of the major commodities. This was followed up by negotiation of objectives, priorities administrative systems and programs for the 1989-1994 Agriculture and Food Agreement (ERDA).

The Federal-Provincial Negotiator was also involved in the developments leading to a National Soil Conservation Program, a Potato Storage and Packaging Survey and organization and support for Federal-Provincial Meetings such as the Atlantic Provinces Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee. It is anticipated that the agreement will be ready for implementation by April 1, 1989.

Meetings were attended and analysis provided in support of negotiations relating to entry into the National Tripartite Stabilization program for Hogs.

Participation in meetings relating to a comprehensive review of Crop Insurance Plans and Policies began in November, 1988.

The 1987 Paper on Departmental Goals and Objectives was updated for Policy Board.

An update of the Fluid Milk Cost of Production Model was carried out in 1988 for the use of the P.E.I. Marketing Council, and cost of production analyses for the 1987 Farm Business Analysis for Hogs, Dairy and Potatoes were run.

Computer Section

This section is responsible for microcomputer development, procedures, training, maintenance and in-house repairs.

In 1988 the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture acquired a total of 23 new microcomputers costing $66,264 and 21 new printers consting $22,992. An accelerated purchase plan enabled the Department to implement most of its Word Processing Plan with the result being that 10 microcomputers and 9 printers were installed in early spring.

Under the ALFI Program 11 microcomputers and 9 printers were acquired for use in the administration and extension of programs related to livestock feed programs.

These additional purchases increased the computer inventory from 17 to 40. Because of the increased access to computer equipment and the number of new users, Compuer Section staff have been kept busy with training sessions, problem-solving, skill upgrading, demonstrations, programming and computer maintenance and repairs. Computer programs which have been developed or which have received major revisions in 1988 include systems for the Provincial Livestock Exhibition, the Women's Institute, Management Council, Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative, the Information Section, 4-H, Limestone Program Administration, School Milk and several mailing lists and surveys.

A Data Processing Plan covering November 1, 1988, to March 31, 1990, was developed during late 1988 to establish priorities and an action plan for the Department regarding microcomputer installation and use. The Plan will be reviewed by the Computer Priorities Committee in February, 1989.

During 1988, Treasury Board approved Microcomputer Networking New Initiative. The first phase of this system will be installed in 1989 linking machines on the 4th floor of the Jones Building. Other parts of the Department will be added in phases 2 and 3 of the New Initiative.

Information Section

The Information Section plans, co-ordinates and produces public information, and is responsible for media relations for the branches and sections of the Department. Staffed by the Information Director, Information Officer, and Secretary, this section is responsible for the dissemination of extension information through advertising, daily and weekly farm broadcasts, news and feature releases, printing brochures and publications, and producing the department's monthly agricultural newspaper, CornerPost.

In June the Information Director began a two-year leave of absence. Beginning in November, the Section was staffed by the Secretary and an acting Director.

Production Services

The section's production services were used extensively during 1988 with most branches publishing several Agri-fact sheets, conference and information brochures, and other extension materials. The Section also co-ordinates the purchase and/or publishing of joint Atlantic provinces' publications. Provincial publications such as the department's Annual Report, Seed Potato Growers' Certification List, the Personnel Directory, and similar brochures are produced annually.

Radio Extension Program

During 1988, several changes were required in the department's radio extension program. The well-known "Farm Report," a 3.5 minute interview show, was revised to keep pace with the current AM radio program formats. It has become increasingly difficult to gain air-time for a show this length at a convenient listening time for a rural audience. After consultation with several radio stations, a new one-minute monologue show was chosen, and named "Agriculture Today." This program is directed to a mixed urban and rural audience and continues to run weekdays on CFCY, CHTN, CJRW and Q-93 FM.

The two feature programs, "The Farm Show" and "CornerPost", which were aired weekly, were discontinued in November, pending a review of the radio extension program of the Information Section.

The responsibility of preparing the "Farm Market Report" for broadcast has been transferred to the Market Services Division of the Department where the information is compiled. However, the responsibility of providing the Market Report as public information remains with the Information Section.

The Agricultural Market Report was broadcast Monday to Friday on CFCY, CHTN, CJRW and Q-93; and live on CBC Radio. Many calls were received by the Zenith toll-free line, which provides the market report to callers 24 hours a day.

Media Work

The Section releases a weekly news package to local, regional and national press; prepares agricultural features, co-ordinates the mailing of the Market Report assists Island livestock breeders with media coverage of livestock competitions. It also provides assistance to farm organizations wishing to work with the media.

The department's major extension information tool, CornerPost, was mailed to approximately 6000 Island homes in conjunction with a local farm newspaper and 12 issues were published.

Photography

Photography services are offered to department staff in support of the department's extension information programs.

Advertising

All advertising for the Department is co-ordianted through the Section with approximately 300 press ads processed.

Special Projects

This section is also responsible for special projects. This work includes working with agricultural groups and associations, preparing agricultural brochures, and AV presentations, and special events planning. Section staff work closely with other department branches by planning and publicizing extension/information efforts.

Two soil conservation projects were undertaken jointly with Agriculture Canada. To mark National Soil Conservation Week in April, a conservation brochure entitled "It's Everybody's Business" was produced and distributed to junior high school students, and made available to the general public.

Secondly, a major farm survey was conducted to gain an insight into conservation on-farm practices and to determine what types of conservation information is most valuable to farmers. Two hundred thirty-eight farmers were interviewed in person or by mail during the spring and summer months. The survey information will be used locally to assist in identifying what conservation information is desired by farmers and to help make it available. The survey results were also provided to form part of a national survey co-ordinated by Agriculture Canada's Communications Branch in Ottawa.

In co-ordination with the department's computer resource people, a computer program was developed to be used for the Provincial Exhibition's livestock competitions. This program is deisgned to assist in keeping accurate records of competitions and provide accurate results for the public reporting of such events. The program will be in place for the 1989 Provincial Exhibition.

Agri-Food Development and Atlantic Livestock Feed Development Sub-Agreements

The Director of Information represented the Department as a member of the Communications Sub-Committees of the two agricultural Economic Regional Development Agreements. The sub-committees are responsible for joint communications activities undertaken by Agriculture Canada and the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture. The sub-committees also ensure that all public information activities under the Agri-food and ALFI sub-agreements represent the joint federal-provincial nature of those agreements.

Appropriate Technology and International Programs Branch

The Appropriate Technology and International Programs Branch has been established as a result of the reorganization of the Department to address the important needs of Prince Edward Island agriculture and farmers to expand agricultural exports, increase value-added in new products and services, and promote participation of the different sectors of agriculture in Canadian international programs. The services of the Branch are provided to assist the efforts to increase farm income and create new economic opportunities in agriculture.

Export Promotion

As the result of a visit by the Branch Director to Iraq in the spring of 1988, and negotiations on behalf of the potato exporters, a combined contract for seed potato sales was discussed. However, since most potato varieties common to Prince Edward Island were not on the Iraqi list, it was agreed that a priority at this stage should be given to co-operation between Iraq and Prince Edward Island, at the level of variety trials. An agreement was concluded between the State Board for Agricultural Research and Water Resources in the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture, that Potatoes Canada initiate potato variety trials in Iraq in early December, 1988.

In accordance with the agreement, six seed potato varieties of 120 kg each were shipped by air to Baghdad, Iraq on December 7, (Kennebec, Brador, Atlantic, Russet Burbank, Red Pontiac and Yukon Gold), accompanied by a Potatoes Canada agronomist. Furthermore, an invitation to tender on the variety Desiree in 1988 (for delivery in the 1989-1990 season) has been received.

A proposal is being developed for presentation to Agriculture Canada respecting a protocol on Animal Health Regulations which will facilitate future exports of cattle from Prince Edward Island to Syria.

A contract between England Fur Farms of Wellington, P.E.I. and the Appropriate Technology and International Programs Branch was signed to facilitate the exploration of fox and cattle markets in several provinces in China.

The terms of the contract were implemented in late November, 1988, when Mr. Kent England visited China with the assistance of this Branch, and filed a report in early December. The findings of the report are presently being processed and evaluated before distribution to potential beneficiaries of the Chinese livestock and fur-animal markets.

Under the terms of an agreement between Westech Agriculture Ltd. of Alberton, P.E.I. and the Appropriate Technology and International Programs Branch, assistance was provided for a shipment of virus-free strawberry plants to Spain to support entry into that market, as well as new markets in South America and the Middle East (of Iraq).

Arrangements have been made with contacts in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East to provide the Branch with biweekly Commodity Market Intelligence reports during specific times of the marketing year.

A proposal to assist seed potato exporters in the entry into new off-shore seed potato markets was researched, analysed, developed and presented to the Department of Agriculture as a new initiative.

Contacts with External Affairs and Agriculture Canada were established in order to determine the potential of new markets for seed potatoes, strawberry plants, breeding cattle and swine in Turkey, Tunisia, Syria, Morocco, Libya, Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, Belize, Columbia, Brazil, Cuba and Argentina.

Assistance was provided by this Branch to the P.E.I. Tobacco Commodity Marketing Board in the exploration of conditions for export of leaf tobacco from P.E.I. to Egypt.

Presentations were made to Agriculture Canada and External Affairs, respecting the present European derogation requirements for import of Canadian seed potatoes into Europe, and the need to change these requirements in favour of Canadian and Prince Edward Island seed potato growers and exporters.

The Branch initiated efforts to negotiate the entry of Prince Edward Island into the Egyptian seed potato market. However, it has not been possible to produce a commercial agreement that is acceptable to both sides within the short shipping time which remained in the season by December 22, 1988.

Value-Added

In early November, a European potato processing technology tour was planned and co-ordinated by the Director of the Appropriate Technology and International Programs Branch for three potato producers. Members of the tour included Mr. Rod Nicholson, Mid Isle Farms, Mr. Warren Ellis, Green Acres Produce Ltd., Mr. Ray Keenan, Keenan Farms, and Dr. A. T. Raad, Director, Appropriate Technology and International Programs Branch. The delegates visited potato processing facilities in the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Denmark.

The purpose of the trip was to acquaint representatives of the potato industry with current and potential applications in Prince Edward Island of modern potato processing technology, with particular emphasis on products manufactured from modified starch and potato starch derivatives. The delegates were especially interested in the basic requirements of this technology, environmental impacts, economics and market outlook and the transfer of this potato processing technology to Prince Edward Island. Members of the delegation were able to view several well-developed, technologically advanced starch derivative facilities in the three European countries where there are in excess of 6,000 potato farmers who derive more than 70 percent of their income from such industries.

The findings of the tour tend to support the positive conclusions of the three consultant studies which were jointly conducted by this Branch and Canada Department of Regional and Industrial Expansion to evaluate the economic feasibility of potato starch derivatives and Vitamin C industries in Prince Edward Island. These industries will initially use potato culls and grade-out tubers in the processing of potato starch derivatives products. Examples of these products include starch, dextrins (adhesives) dextrose (sugar), sorbitol (sugar), and ascorbic acid (Vitamin C).

A comprehensive report on the European Potato Processing Technology Tour was written by the Branch Director and submitted with appropriate conclusions for necessary action and follow up.

A study was initiated by the Branch to evaluate the feasibility of growing and processing (i.e. drying, colour fixing, scent enhancement, packaging and distribution) of cultivated flowers, and other plant materials in P.E.I. as a new economic crop and a community industry. The early results of the study are positive and therefore warrant further investigation of this economic opportunity.

Study proposals were developed by the Branch to evaluate(a) the technology for the formulation and production of low cholesterol livestock and poultry feeds, and (b) the technology of anaerobic digestion of farm refuse to produce energy (electricity) for on-farm use or export.

International Programs

A project proposal was developed by the Branch for the introduction of tissue culture technology and establishment of suitable facilities in Jordan as a joint effort with the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Branch conducted necessary research and consultations and developed the appropriate format respecting the "Protocol of Friendship and Co-operation" between the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago which was signed in Charlottetown in August, 1988. This followed an Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Tour of the province provided by the Department of Agriculture for Trinidad and Tobago delegation, lead by Hon. Lincoln Myers, Minister of Agriculture. The Protocol provides the foundation for technology exchange and expansion of agricultural trade between Prince Edward Island and the Islands of Trinidad and Tobago. The Commonwealth of Trinidad and Tobago imports between 15,000 and 20,000 tonnes of table potatoes each year from Prince Edward Island.

Several agricultural project proposals were initiated for implementation under Canadian International Development Agency, or Host Country funding in selected countries by provincial servicing sectors. These projects apply to potato processing (e.g. french fry, potato chips and starch), small family farm development programs, soil survey methodology and land use planning systems.

Other Services

The Branch provided assistance to exporters and farm business managers in locating markets and contacts in off-shore countries. Numerous requests for export market information assistance were answered by the Branch during the year.

MARKETING AND EXTENSION BRANCH

The Marketing and Extension Branch includes two divisions: Marketing Services and Extension Services. The Extension Services Division has responsibility for the District Office Section and the Sustainable Agriculture Section, which includes the Small Farms, Training and 4-H Programs. The Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative Program is also included in the District Office Section.

The activities of the Branch in 1988 were based on the Strategic Objectives as detailed in the Department of Agriculture's Strategy Outline. The Branch focused on the objectives of Marketing, Farm Finance and Sustainability.

Each of the Sections within the Branch developed and followed individual operational plans. Through the Supervisors, the Assistant Branch Director and the Director, the Branch ensured that the activities of the Sections were co-ordinated to achieve the most effective results.

Together, the Sections work to strengthen the Island agricultural industry.

The Marketing Services Division implemented programs to improve the quality of Island products, develop new products and develop new geographic markets.

The District Offices focused on improving the farm management skills of Island farmers through personal contact and seminars. Assistance was also provided to farmers in adopting new production methods, developing leadership skills and identifying the links between the farm and the retail marketplace.

The Sustainable Agriculture Section has primary responsibility for the Department's "sustainability" objective. The Section administered new programs designed to maximize off-farm input costs and encourage farming methods designed to improve the use of on-farm resources. This Section also co-ordinates the Department's Training Program, provides extension support to small and part-time farmers, and provides support to provincial 4-H activities.

Each of the Section's activities for 1988 are described in more detail below.

Marketing Services Division

The Marketing Services Division, created during the reorganization of the Department provides services through programs in market development, market education, product promotion, market analysis and market information. The principal function is to provide marketing services to farm clientele and to other sections of the Department. The Division works toward linking Island production to market opportunities.

During the year a new part-time position "Exhibitions Co-ordinator" was filled. The Co-ordinator will work with the exhibition associations, developing fair and exhibition programs to showcase the agriculture industry.

Activities and projects of the Division are highlighted on a commodity basis.

Potatoes

The 1987-88 crop suffered from poor growing conditions which resulted in lower than average yields, while a good crop was experienced in other areas of North America. The resulting price pressures lowered average returns to $5.03 per cwt. which was less than the cost of production.

The 1988 crop was a record crop with yields reaching an all-time high. Despite extremely difficult harvest conditions, the crop reached storage in excellent condition. Prices for the '88 crop are at a reasonable level.

Market Research

The P.E.I. Potato Marketing Commission selected Coopers & Lybrand consulting group to conduct a study into the "Preferences and Attitudes of Consumers Towards Potatoes". This was a cost-shared project between Agriculture Canada, P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and the Commission. This study has been completed and is being used by the Commission in the development of its promotion programs.

Market Development

The Division assisted several individual growers and packers in exploring aspects of marketing such as variety packaging and presentation concepts to develop new marketing opportunities for potatoes.

In support of market development activities, a study by the P.E.I. Food Technology Centre will evaluate the microwave cooking performance of seven varieties of potatoes sampled throughout the storage season. The study will provide preliminary data on Island potatoes based on nutritional, compositional and sensory analysis.

Seed potato exports to the United States were analyzed, and contacts made to potential market areas. Market potential and requirements continue to be identified in relation to local production.

Quality Improvement Program

Maintaining the province's reputation for providing a high quality product for the marketplace requires constant attention to quality. The Department provides several programs which contribute towards improved quality, including seminars on grading standards co-ordinated by Marketing Services staff. Seminars were presented in late November in O'Leary, Kinkora and Charlottetown with approximately 75 people attending.

Promotion

In April, the Division assigned a staff member to work specifically in promotion of Island potatoes in the tablestock markets of Canada and the United States. Assistance is given to the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Commission in planning, implementing and carrying out their promotion program plans, and to other industry representatives. Activities are also planned and carried out in co-operation with other department and government staff.

Promotion Activities since April included

- commitment of support for the P.E.I. Potato Commission's major media campaign for Toronto, Montreal and Boston market areas
- staff assistance at trade shows including Potato Marketing Association of North America, Canadian and regional food service shows
- participation at trade dinners in Boston, Montreal and Toronto
- staff assistance in planning a promotion picnic for P.E.I. potatoes for use by CTV, "Live It Up" programming.

Stabilization

As a result of the difficult marketing experiences for the 1987 crop, the Department of Agriculture supported the P.E.I. Potato Commission representations to Ottawa for stabilization payments. A decision has not yet been reached by the Agricultural Stabilization Board.

National Agency

A court ruling frustrated efforts of the task force appointed by the Canadian Horticultural Council to create a National Agency with supply management powers. A plebiscite was held and Prince Edward Island growers supported the concept of a National Agency. As a result, the task force is continuing its deliberations.

Grains and Protein Crops

Grains

A staff member worked closely with the management and staff of the Grain Elevators Corporation. The program developed included promotion, expansion of facilities and support for Advance Payments. Staff assisted the Board of Directors during a transition of management by providing market and price information.

The Division contracted a consultant to examine future needs of a representative organization for Island grain producers. Staff participated at meetings of the Atlantic Grains Council and Maritime Farmers Council where many areas of interest to the grain producer or feeder are discussed and appropriate support action initiated.

A staff member participated in a Farm Leaders Course in Winnipeg which provided an overall picture of the Canadian and world grain industry. This increased the ability of the Division to respond to issues relating to such areas as stabilization, transportation and market pricing.

Milling Wheat

A staff member served as a member of a Maritime Committee for co-ordinating the marketing of milling wheat through Dover Mills. Acreage planted for milling wheat increased sharply in 1988 but weather related problems kept actual deliveries well below original projections.

Grain Assistance Programs

Staff assisted producers with the information required for filing claims for grain stabilization paid on the 1986 crop.

Staff assisted producers by providing program information required prior to filing for the Special Grains Program.

A staff member provided liaison with the Livestock Feed Board of Canada and provided information and assistance to livestock feeders submitting claims for Feed Freight Assistance.

ALFI

Several staff members served as members and/or chairmen of advisory committees on the various sub-programs of the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative.

Soybeans

Staff continued to work with the P.E.I. Bean Co-operative and the Grain Elevators Corporation to improve the handling and marketing of soybeans. Assistance was provided in designing suitable marketing arrangements including a soybean pool.

Coloured Beans

Staff is working with the P.E.I. Bean Co-operative to determine market opportunities for coloured beans grown through an Alternate Enterprise project.

Small Fruits and Vegetables

Blueberries

Staff assisted in promotion of wild blueberries through membership in the Domestic Promotion Committee of the Wild Blueberry Association of North America (WBANA). Market planning and promotion were major activities, and included joint participation in APEX, the Atlantic Provinces Restaurant Show in Moncton.

Strawberries

Market Development activity included continued assistance in expansion of markets for strawberry plants produced from tissue culture technology. Increased volumes were reflected in expanded sales to Florida and Spain, with sample shipments to potential market areas in the United States and South America.

The P.E.I. Strawberry Growers were assisted with their annual promotion campaign during the fresh market season.

Cranberries

Staff worked with Goose River Co-operative to co-ordinate the marketing of wild cranberries purchased by the Co-operative from local pickers. Progress has been made with a local processor on making sales of wild cranberry sauce outside the Maritime region.

Raspberries

The P.E.I. Raspberry Growers' Association was assisted with their annual promotion plan of activities. Support was provided for media advertising to provide increased public awareness during the fresh market season.

Cole Crops

Assistance was provided to the Cole Crop Growers Co-operative in the negotiating of contracts and planning for the marketing of their brussels sprouts.

Sales in 1988 were made to two major processors in Quebec and Nova Scotia with one trailer load going to New Brunswick as a trial shipment.

Quality overall was not as good as last year due to wet weather causing rot and increased insect injury. Yields were variable.

Greenhouse Growers

The P.E.I. Greenhouse Growers Association was assisted in a promotion program aimed at more awareness and increased sales of local greenhouse products, particularly bedding plants.

Forages

The Marketing Services Division assisted in the development of organized forage marketing through co-operative projects with the Island Hay and Straw Co-operative Ltd.

These projects were directed towards improvements in processing efficiency, promotion, new product development and market development. Emphasis was also placed on the development of the Co-operative as a corporation.

The Co-operative generated sales of nearly $1 million during its third year of operation and had its membership increase to 57. Approximately 40 non-members also sold their hay through the co-operative system.

Marketing projects were designed to strengthen the Co-op's market share in domestic and international markets. Some test marketing of straw was done in the blueberry producing regions of Maine and Nova Scotia.

Livestock

Market education and communication on livestock marketing issues were presented using the various media on a regular basis. The target audience for the information included both producers and consumers.

Beef, Swine and Sheep

During the year, a staff member was involved in assisting producer groups to develop long-term planning strategies for beef, swine, and sheep. A series of producer meetings was held to receive producer direction and input.

Market development activities include projects for both breeding stock and fresh product.

One of the major opportunities identified in the beef industry is the demand for approximately 10,000 additional feeder calves. A survey of feedlot operators has been conducted to determine their demands and this information is being communicated to the suppliers of feeder calves.

The Hog Commodity Marketing Board is undertaking an assessment of the ability of local breeding stock to provide superior progeny in terms of high meat yield. Tracking results on carcasses and correlating this information to parentage and/or cross-breeding program, make it possible to produce a more uniform and predictable supply of pork. This is becoming increasingly important, as more market segmentation takes place and as producers are called on to produce a specific product for a specific market.

Assistance was given to the Sheep Breeders Association on a market study to assess the opportunities for specialty wools, particularly their value to weavers and hand spinners.

Division staff are co-ordinating a study to examine potential opportunities to market frozen embryos from Island livestock. A producer survey has been completed and summarized. An assessment of the genetic quality of Island livestock is underway. Staff continue to collect information on potential markets and market requirements.

Commodity promotional efforts in conjunction with beef breed groups have been supported for breeding stock. The P.E.I. Shorthorn Breeders were assisted with their Maritime Show and Sale and the P.E.I. Angus Breeders were given financial assistance for their promotional brochure. The P.E.I. Simmental breeders were assisted in preparing a special Maritime supplement to "Simmental Country" as a promotional effort providing exposure on a national basis.

Promotion of the various red meat products was supported by the Marketing Services Division through assistance to the various commodity organizations. The P.E.I. Hog Commodity Marketing Board promotion plan included three levels of operation - national, regional and provincial. On a national basis, the province participates in the promotional programs of Canada Pork which focused on the food-service sector. Regionally, a co-operative program with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is targeted at the food-service and retail sectors. Booths were at APEX, the Atlantic restaurant show, Atlantic Winter Fair and Maritime Winter Fair. A gourmet dinner and product reception for Maritime food-service and retail representatives was held in Halifax. The provincial program includes delivery of the national hotel-restaurant-institution promotion, retail promotion and consumer promotions.

The Division assisted the P.E.I. Cattlemen's Association to sponsor a beef promotion in co-operating Island supermarkets. The program was cost-shared with the Association, Agriculture Canada and the Marketing Services Division.

The promotion committee of the P.E.I. Lamb Co-op carried out newspaper and retail promotions.

During Meat Month (February), promotion focused on the nutritive value of red meat in the diet. Activities for health professionals included: a seminar and luncheon with guest speaker Helen Bishop MacDonald, a Calgary nutritionist; distribution of resource materials to Island doctors; and a red meat promotion in hospital cafeterias. Promotion to the general public was done through the media and a study package prepared and distributed via Women's Institute branches.

In market information services, a special effort was made to collect and disseminate more information about purebred cattle sales. An effort is also being made to provide timely and pertinent market information to the beef sector.

The Prince Edward Island Hog Stabilization Program continued to require a major financial commitment. Involvements also included: quarterly updates of components for the cost of production formula, budget calculations, initiation of monthly payouts, monthly updates to Treasury Board and monitoring of transportation assistance on a regular basis.

Representation on the National Tripartite Stabilization Program

Committees for beef and lamb provided the opportunity for input into the operation of these programs. The Division provided assistance to producers enrolled in the program and responded to requests for information about the program.

Dairy

The Marketing Services Division and the Milk Marketing Board co-operated in the development of a consumer recipe publication for use in programs.

School Milk Program

"Increasing milk consumption and enhancing students' knowledge of the need for proper nutrition" continue to be the goals of the Prince Edward Island School Milk Program. The School Milk Program is administered by the P.E.I. School Milk Foundation Ltd., a non-profit body with members from the P.E.I. Milk Marketing Board, the P.E.I. Dairy Producers' Association, the P.E.I. Fluid Milk Processors' Association, the P.E.I. departments of Agriculture and Education.

Staff members from the Department of Agriculture acted as Secretary and Treasurer on the P.E.I. School Milk Foundation. As well, both staff members served as School Milk Co-ordinators on behalf of the Foundation and were responsible for the administration and monitoring of the school milk program in our participating Island elementary and secondary schools.

The P.E.I. School Milk Foundation Ltd. stressed strategic planning as its primary task for the school term 1987 - 1988. Upon reviewing the statistics available to the Foundation, it became evident that three factors have a key role in the success of a school milk program. Those factors are grade level, dispenser vs carton method of distribution and availability of other beverages.

The price of milk to students this school year was 15 cents for a 200 mL serving from a dispenser (43 schools) or 25 cents for a 250 mL carton (28 schools) of white milk (whole or 2 %), an increase of 3 cents in each instance from the previous year. This was only the second student price increase in the eight-year history of the program.

When sales are adjusted for the number of school days and the 1987-1988 student enrollment, there was a slight increase (0.002%) in sales this year (1,145,359 servings).

In May, the Foundation hosted the seventh annual meeting of the Canadian School Milk Programs Committee. Seventeen representatives from eight provinces participated in a very informative exchange of ideas and discussion about how school milk programs work, the value of various activities and ways of overcoming administrative problems.

Additional details of the School Milk Program are provided in the Annual Report of the P.E.I. School Milk Foundation Ltd.

Eggs

The Division supports the P.E.I. Egg Commodity Marketing Board in their participation in national programs developed and implemented by Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, as well as provincially planned and implemented programs.

National programs included participation in television, magazine and outdoor advertising plus other consumer, retail and Hotel Restaurant Institution national promotions.

The provincial programs linked into the national program with the "July is Egg Month" campaign. The theme tied in local fresh produce with eggs as versatile, convenient and light summer meals. Activities included media advertising, a booth at a local fair, in-store sampling in selected major retail outlets in Charlottetown, and distribution of publications and posters. Two "Kids Get Cracking With Eggs" cooking schools for children ages 8 to 14 years were held in March. This was supported by newspaper advertising and press releases. A part-time food service employee assisted individual Island restaurants.

On a Maritime basis the Egg Board was assisted to participate in APEX, a Maritime restaurant show, and with joint advertising in Maritime Food and Beverage magazine.

Organic Products Marketing

The rise in consumer demand for agricultural products grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides has spurred the development of a marketing program designed to meet the needs of organic farmers.

The Marketing Services Division assisted in the development of the Organic Movement Co-operative, a chapter of the International Organic Crop Improvement Association.

The Division supported projects for market investigation and development. Prince Edward Island organic wild blueberries were sold to a baby food company in Vermont. Promising market opportunities for other small fruits and vegetables were identified in other areas of eastern Canada and the Northeast United States.

Farmers Markets

The Marketing Services Division continued to provide technical and financial support to the various farmers' markets under the revised Farmers' Markets Development Policy.

Assistance is available for projects which demonstrably improve the marketability of a product or group of products.

Advertising and promotional assistance is also provided to the Farmers' Markets as a group.

Marketing Information

During 1988, regular agriculture market reports continued with CBC-FM and three AM radio stations. The Weekly Agricultural Market Report continued in the new computerized format. The daily and weekly markets are collected and compiled by staff within the Division. This report reaches all the Maritime Provinces in both printed form and on five radio stations. Marketing Services Division maintains a code-a-phone system for up-to-date market information on the various major commodities. Response has been strong, marking another successful year for this service. A new column contained on the Weekly Agricultural Market Report entitled "What's New In Agriculture..." was initiated. This service was devised to provide insight into specific moves in commodity prices and to present situational outlooks.

Each year, one major project is undertaken. This year a study was planned into potato packaging in other producing areas and in the end-market. The project was undertaken but was not completed since limited amount of data was available.

The stocks of potatoes data released each month is maintained and analyzed in a computer model developed by the Division. The model generates results under several scenarios. This was the first year for the model's operation and adjustments continue.

Another pilot project undertaken by the Division was a research project to better understand hog markets and provide some medium for providing greater accuracy in the published Agricultural outlook data. Computer research was compiled and analysis used to arrive at a model which identifies trends in hog markets. This is currently in the testing phase.

The Statistics field has been busy with updating the computer database, satisfying requests from within the Division, from the public and from other members in Government. The Annual Federal/Provincial Statistics Conference was attended.

The mid-year statistical summary sheet was published, as was the 22nd edition of Prince Edward Island Agricultural Statistics book. This publication took on a new image this year with less historical data and the inclusion of preliminary data for current statistics.

Administration of the Limestone Incentive Policy continued which resulted in assistance to 1200 applicants with 53,000 tonnes of limestone.

Crop condition updates were compiled throughout the growing season on the situation in competing areas.

During this year, a task force was commissioned to study the statistical structure within government. This was made up of representatives from six departments, including Agriculture. A significant amount of work was expended in this area.

Liaison To Women's Institutes

During the year, the Division continued to provide program support and secretarial services to the Board of Directors of Women's Institutes.

The celebrations by Women's Institutes in recognition of their seventy-fifth anniversary continued during the year. Recognition of the organization's achievements was evident through special ceremonies and projects in branches, at district conventions, at the provincial convention and at the Provincial Exhibition.

The annual provincial convention in June used the theme, "75 - Vital and Alive". Approximately 275 people attended the convention held on June 6 and 7, with a program of theme speakers, workshops and business sessions. Theme speakers included Dr. Helen Herring; Beatrice Reeves, president of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada; and Margaret Weeks. Educational programs and projects continued to be the focus of the organization. Assistance was given to develop and distribute study packages for use in educational programs at community meetings. As part of the national "Meat Month" promotion, a package focused on the role of red meat in a healthy diet.

Leadership development is a key element of the on-going strength of the organization. Division staff assisted with workshops for provincial board members, district convention area officers and local branch membership.

As participation in national Environment Week, Women's Institute co-sponsored with CFCY-Q93 a contest for radio commercials. Commercials were judged on their appropriateness for environmental awareness, with prizes awarded for elementary, junior high and high school categories.

The Women's Institute was assisted to continue sponsoring the Handcraft and Art classes for the Provincial Exhibition. Approximately 1200 entries were received, judged and displayed.

The Women's Institute Building is staffed during the Exhibition by about 300 volunteers. The catalogue of competitive classes for 1989 has been prepared and distributed.

The Division continued to co-sponsor with Women's Institute a food preservation information service. The service included a toll-free telephone number for preserving information from July 14 - September 30. Daily 60-second radio spots were sponsored by local businesses on Island stations for 13 weeks. CBC Radio also provided program time on a regular basis, both locally and Maritime-wide. Regular releases were written for the Island newspapers and CornerPost. The program in '88 maintained its level of use with over 1000 requests for information.

Extension Services Division

The Extension Services Division contributes to the development of agriculture in Prince Edward Island through programs offered by the Sustainable Agriculture Section, general extension services provided through the District Office Section, and specific assistance programs administered by the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative.

District Office Section

District Offices provide agricultural extension services to Island farm families from five locations: West Prince, Summerside, Charlottetown, Montague, and Souris. Their activities are described in more detail below.

West Prince District Office

This district staff provides extension services to approximately 468 farms. In addition to responding to requests from farmers and providing information to the general public, district staff develop various courses and workshops to promote new trends and technology in the industry.

Livestock

Dairy farm numbers have been slowly declining in West Prince with five producers exiting the industry during 1988. However, three cream producers switched to bulk industrial milk. Participation in milking procedure and equipment check services has steadily increased over the past year.

There are a number of younger farmers taking over the management of the dairy operations who are interested in improving herd health, nutrition and breeding. Two information sessions sponsored by the local veterinarian clinic on Herd Health and Mastitis were conducted and five producers attended a seminar on the topic in Truro. The Western Holstein Club has been very active in promoting improved AI sire selection through meetings and semen auctions. In West Prince there are 77 industrial, 9 fluid and 34 cream shippers.

Beef cow/calf producers in the district are participating extensively in the Lean Beef Program. This program has also given the producers the added incentive to purchase quality bulls and benefit from the Bull Bonus Program. The 146 beef producers have seen their quality improve considerably over the past five years. The West Prince Hereford Association, the Spring Beef Show and Sale Club and the Prince County Beef Club have all worked to improve beef production in West Prince. The "Beef Days West" seminar was the fourth annual event organized for West Prince beef producers. This event again attracted a good number of producers in 1988.

The fox industry is still strong in West Prince with 69 producers improving their ranches and breeding stock in spite of below average returns for their efforts. Considerable interest has been shown in breeding through artificial insemination, and a number of ranchers have been trained in this technique.

Swine numbers in West Prince have been declining over the past year. At present there are approximately 65 hog producers. The majority of these producers are farrow-weaner operations with a small number of farrow-finish operations. The Swine Assembly Yard reduced the number of shipping days to one day per week. Although the numbers are low, the quality of weaners and feeder hogs shipped is high. Swine seminars were initiated by producer requests with the result that 20 producers attended a Swine Herd Health Seminar that provided many interesting discussion points.

Sheep production remains low with 18 farmers maintaining small flocks. These producers have maintained quality lamb production and use the co-operative approach to sell their lambs and wool.

Cereal and Forages

The Special Canadian Grains Program and the Grain Stabilization Program were the major activities carried out in the cereal program. Considerable time was used in assisting farmers in completing these forms and dealing with the additional documentation required for the Grain Stabilization Program.

During the past year interest has been generated in two cereal crops; hulless oats and milling wheat. A number of producers are experimenting with extra fertility to improve yield and protein levels in these crops. Cereal producers continued to have samples moisture tested during harvesting season this past year.

In forages there is considerable interest shown in three areas; silages, hay, and pasture improvements.

There is a marked increase in the number of farmers trying bagged, heap and Ag Bag silage. Demonstrations were held on tubed, wrapped silage and Ag Bag silage. There was also a demonstration of ammonia being injected into round bales. Since both Ag Bag operators in this area are very interested in custom work, eight farmers in this area have put up grass silage using this system.

In forages, the trend has been to replace old hay species either with alfalfa or with improved species rather than triple-mix . The ALFI program has been an incentive to some livestock producers to establish alfalfa. Pasture management improvement has followed this trend of planting improved varieties and fertilizing them to achieve results. A forage demonstration plot planted in 1987 containing legume and grass varieties was monitored to determine a bench mark for proper harvesting dates in this district. Four farmers participated in the Pasture Management Workshop of NSAC.

Potatoes

The potato sector comprises the largest enterprise in West Prince. There are approximately 164 potato producers in West Prince producing over 11,700 acres. Twenty-five percent of these producers were left with a large volume of their product unsold. This, combined with low rainfall and low yield, provided a poor economic showing for this sector.

Several events were held to provide extension marketing information. District staff, in co-operation with Marketing services staff, helped co-ordinate and deliver two seminars on Potato Grading for local growers and their grading crews.

Other Crops

During the past year a number of dairy and swine operators have expanded into the production of protein crops and soybeans which have proven to be viable in West Prince. This year a number of farmers are contract-growing strawberry plants for the export market. In addition to the above crops, two farmers also experimented with growing beans for human consumption. As with any new crop, "trial and error" in the growing cycle have provided valuable information for future production.

Farm Management

The majority of work was on an individual basis involving preparation of cash flow projections, loan calculations and credit agency applications. The microcomputer has proven invaluable in assisting staff and farmers in evaluating opportunities and making decisions. The estate planning seminar on Farm Transfers was an excellent seminar. Farm record keeping has steadily improved on the majority of farms. Holland College is now also providing record keeping courses that are open to the farm community.

Soil and Crop Improvement Association

The West Prince Soil and Crop Improvement Association continues to be very active. In 1988 the Directors received funding under ALFI to hire a fieldman for a three year period and to purchase a brillion seeder. During the year, the seeder was used by 56 farmers to seed 534 acres of forage and 9 acres of kale. The chisel plow was used by 13 farmers, covering 406 acres; the rock rake was used by 2 farmers; and 5 farmers subsoiled 42 acres. The use of this equipment was clearly reduced by the wet fall.

The District Association conducted two tours of various projects. The first tour focused on cereals, forages and soybeans, while the second tour aimed at late cut silage, corn varieties and kale plots. Nitrozyme, a naturally produced growth regulator has been tested for the second year by the West Prince Association on cereal, corn, and potato plots. The Association has sponsored a hay competition class at the Alberton Exhibition for the third year in succession. This year 11 farmers entered the three classes. The District Association and the Provincial Association worked with the local membership on various crop demonstrations

- Tibor Hulless Oats
- 2 Kale Plots
- Sorghum Sudan Grass seeded at various rates
- Lupins
- Corn Variety Trials (8 varieties)
- Forage Plots
- Trefoil Plots
- Nitrozyme applied on 1 field of Oats-split application
- Nitrozyme applied on 2 fields of Barley-split application
- Nitrozyme applied on 1 field of Soybeans-split application
- Nitrozyme applied on 2 fields of Potatoes-split applications
- Nitrozyme applied on 3 fields of Corn-split applications
- Provincial Cereal Trials
- Provincial Soybean Trials

West Prince has been selected as one of the three sites on P.E.I. for an Adaptive Research Project on cereal, forage and soybean varieties during the next three years.

Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative

The ALFI Program initiated in 1987 has provided some much-needed incentives for cereal and forages. In the Storage and Handling section, 116 farmers applied. The estimated cost of all projects approved under the various sub-programs totaled $613,988.

Soil PH Adjustment Program

This Federal Program which was initiated in 1987 received a response from 136 landowners in the District. The majority of lime applications were scheduled for 1988; however, with the wet fall, 40 percent of the applicants were not able to spread the lime.

4-H

4-H continues on a smaller scale in West Prince with only two clubs completing the 4-H year. The two remaining clubs strived for quality; 54 members completed 136 projects. Projects included Beef, Dairy, Steer, Poultry, Horse and Pony, Junior Leadership, Sewing, Knitting, Foods and You, Seasonal Decorating, Woodworking, Potato Gardening and Self Determined Projects. Leadership was provided with 17 volunteer leaders.

The West Prince District Council sponsored a Junior 4-H Camp and arranged for trophy sponsors at the Alberton Exhibition. West and East Prince 4-H Councils jointly sponsored an intermediate Conference held in West Prince. A new club was formed in Tyne Valley with 24 members and 3 leaders; however, another club did not reorganize. This leaves West Prince with two clubs, with the possibility of another club being organized.

With a new executive in the District, Council programs are well under way. To begin the new year, the Council sponsored a night of bowling in Summerside with 34 members plus 8 leaders participating. District staff assisted leaders and members with information on various projects and assisted clubs in reorganization, judging communications, achievement days, and preparing projects for transportation to Rural Youth Fair and other Island Exhibitions. 4-H members from West Prince were selected to attend the National 4-H Club Conference held annually in Toronto.

Home Economics

Considerable work was done in providing presentations on nutrition, home management and other topics to Women's Institutes, Women in Support of Agriculture and at various courses. During the year the following presentations were made: Financial Management - (2 presentations); Calcium Calculations (7 presentations); Budgeting (4 presentations); Time Management/Super Woman (8 presentations); Agriculture/Food System (2 presentations); U-Pick Island Foods (2 presentations); Eggs (1 presentation); Diet and Cancer (l presentation).

Groups also benefited from the Home Economist's leadership at WI meetings, workshops and conventions, WSA annual district and provincial meetings and the WSA Farm Women's Tour.

The District Home Economist has assisted in the organization of the Spring Farm Women's Conference in West Prince and a Provincial Farm Women's Conference scheduled for 1989.

Nutrient Education Programs were also carried out in the Elementary Schools and both Junior High Schools in the West Prince area. Financial Management articles were prepared for the newspapers' "Step by Step"columns. Two courses were initiated from this office; a Step by Step Home Study Course and a Microwave Home Study Course.

Home Economics topics and consumer requests were also dealt with on a one-to-one basis and through available media such as newspapers, CornerPost, radio programs and specific pamphlet information.

Client Contact

The West Prince District staff are also in contact with the farming community by the following means; district radio show every fifth week, 4-H radio shows, farm noon broadcast, home economist articles for newspapers, mailouts and pamphlets promoting events, and the District Soil and Crop Newsletter.

Education Courses/Seminars/Events

Event	Attendance
Potato Grading Seminars (2)	61
Farm Diesel Trouble-Shooting	9
Forage Equipment	10
Potato Equipment	10
Farm Electrical	12
Tractor Hydraulics	13
Forage Update	20
Swine Herd Health	20
Estate Planning	11
Step by Step	9
Pasture Management - Truro	4
Financial Management (2)	34
Time Management/Superwomen (8)	119
U Pick Island Foods (2)	52
Budgeting (4)	121
Agriculture Food System (2)	34
Calcium Calculators (7)	139
Eggs (l)	19
Diet & Cancer	17
Beef Days West	23
District 4-H Annual Meeting	14
ACEEE Conference Mill River	42
Brillion Seeder Demonstration	9
ACOA Seminar for Farmers	14
Farm Credit - The New Trend	5
Lely Weeder Demonstration	12
Ag Bagger Demonstration	20
Purina 4-H Tour - NSAC	14
Bale Wrapper Demonstration	7
Ammonia Injector Demonstration in Wrapper Big Bales	8
Annual Soil and Crop Meeting W.P.	90
Soil and Crop Tour W.P. (2)	28
Integrated Computer Feeder Milk Recording Demonstration	26
Farm Women's Tour	9
Strawberries - Their Potential	5
Pesticide Safety Course	9

Other Client Events

Potato Meeting with Minister of Agriculture
PEI Holstein Field Day
West Prince WSA Annual Meeting
Provincial Soil and Crop Meeting
Provincial W.I. Convention
Judging at Unit 1 Science Fair
Judging at the Achievement Days and Communication Nights

Agriculture Employment Training for Farmers
Western Holstein Club Annual Meeting
Spring Beef Show and Sale
Prince County Beef Club
4-H District Council Meetings
4-H Showmanship and Clipping Demonstration
Potato Days
West Prince Soil and Crop Directors Meeting
Dairy Management Software Demonstration
WSA Executive Meeting
Forage Council Meeting

Special Projects

District staff were involved in two special projects in 1988.

Advisory Board Project

The District Office was requested by the West Prince Advisory Board to develop a project that was of vital concern for the farming community. The project had two components: an Environment Agriculture Project on the Montrose River Watershed; and a Ragwort Population Study of West Prince. These concerns were developed into a program outline and incorporated into a two-part Environmental Project.

The project was approved with funding from Jobs for Youth. The Advisory Board provided travel allowances and the District Office supervised this project. Copies of the results are available to the public.

ALFI Crops Technician

The second area was the approval of a Crops Technician position, funded by ALFI, through the West Prince Soil and Crop Association project. This project has allowed farmers easier access to the Brillion seeder, chisel plow, rock rake and the subsoiler, owned by the Association. The availability of the equipment and the technician's assistance has increased the number of farmers interested in crop varieties, new crops and improved growing techniques.

In addition, the farmers of this area are obtaining assistance in collecting cereal, potatoes, hay silage and soybean samples for entry in various competitions within P.E.I. and out of province.

West Prince farmers are well represented now in provincial competitions. The area will also be well represented at the Maritime Machinery Show and this year for the first time, three West Prince forage producers sent entries to the Royal Winter Fair.

Summerside District Office

The Summerside District Office delivers program, and services to approximately 700 farm families and many rural organizations. Five district staff members provide information on topics such as farm and home management, production, marketing, and nutrition education.

During 1988 district staff responded to approximately 3890 client visits and 8600 phone requests on various agriculture matters.

Also located at the Summerside District Office are the Provincial Swine Specialist, District Agricultural Engineer, Agricultural Chemical Inspector, and a representative from the Land Development Corporation.

Livestock

Dairy producers in the District continue to emphasize quality forages and improved feeding programs. With financial assistance from the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative, several automated feeding systems have been installed, silage systems adopted, and alfalfa stands established. A Dairy Feeding Systems Tour was held to view demonstration projects. A highlight of the year was the attendance at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin by nine farmers from the District.

By year end, most feedlot producers had enrolled in the National Tripartite Stabilization Program. The Cow-Calf Development Policy and the Beef Handling Facility Program have been very popular.

A desire to reduce feed costs has generated more interest in silage systems, intensive pasture management, and total mixed rations using cull potatoes as the principal energy source.

As a result of unfavourable market prices in the hog industry, many individuals have requested assistance in analyzing their financial status. Cost of production, cash flow statements, and partial budgets have been prepared to assist individuals in evaluating their options.

General inquiries pertaining to the Swine Incentive Program, feeding systems, and weaner-feeder arrangements were also addressed.

District staff assisted with livestock exhibitions to display and promote quality breeding stock at the Summerside Lobster Carnival and Egmont Bay Exhibition.

Stray voltage was a unique problem on some livestock farms. Manure storage and handling practices had to be addressed on some farms to overcome environmental or public concerns.

In recent months, considerable interest has been demonstrated by farmers in the advantages and the techniques of composting manure.

Cereal and Forages

Participation in the ALFI program to date has been 192 farm applications, or approximately 550 projects representing financial incentives of approximately $1.15 million.

The majority of projects have been for feed storages, particularly grain tanks and pole barns for round bale storage. An Intensive Cereal Management (ICM) Project has been conducted at 15 farms on 21 cereal plots and 13 farms have participated in alfalfa establishment projects. An example of other projects assisted under ALFI include: Computerized Feeding Systems, Round Bale Silage Projects, Ag Baggers, Silage Preservatives, and Round Bale Hay Dryers.

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association conducted field trials on soybeans, wheat, oats and barley and monitored previously established forage trials. The Association purchased a 12 ft. Brillion seeder through ALFI which was leased to district farmers (along with an existing 8 ft. Brillion seeder) to direct seed 550 acres of forage.

Staff completed 325 applications under the Special Canadian Grains Program and assisted 189 producers with the pH Adjustment Program.

Potatoes

Information sessions, on-farm demonstrations, and producer tours on potato production, storage, and marketing were offered during 1988.

Staff monitored 3 blight stations and 11 aphid alert sites to aid producers with spray schedules.

Assistance was also provided to applicants applying to the Agri-Food Development Sub-Agreement, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Productivity Enhancement Program.

Farm Management

Staff were involved on an individual basis with producers planning expansion or experiencing credit problems.

Credit applications to the appropriate agency (i.e. Land Development Corporation, P.E.I. Lending Authority, Farm Credit Corporation, or chartered banks), were based on an analysis of the present and proposed plans of the farm operation.

A detailed evaluation was prepared for 18 applications to the LDC Lease Back to Vendor Program.

An Income Tax Session was held to acquaint farmers with the implementation of proposed tax changes. A Farm Business Management Course was provided in co-operation with Holland College.

Over 100 farm units were assisted in filing gas tax rebates.

Staff provided recommendations to the Department of Industry on two applications requesting agricultural immigrant status and two applications for assistance under the Small Business Incentive Program to manufacture agriculture machinery.

Home Economics/Leadership Development

The Summerside District Home Economist co-ordinated the Egg Month and Raspberry Month promotion campaigns. Information sessions were also conducted on Red Meat and on Preserving the Harvest.

Five nutrition awareness sessions were conducted at three local schools. The media was used to release nutrition information through local newspapers, radio, and the department newsletter.

Twenty-five articles were prepared for the Step by Step Financial Management news releases. Assistance was provided to the Farm Business Management Course and seven sessions were conducted on Budgeting, Financial Management, and Time Management to Holland College or clients of Social Services and the Salvation Army.

In co-operation with the Summerside District 4-H Council activities were co-ordinated with nine 4-H clubs with approximately 160 members. Activities included: re-organization meetings, communication rallies, achievement days, ice sports, bowling, exhibitions, and trip interviews. The District also participated in a 4-H Open House Canada Exchange with Saskatchewan.

Support services were offered to approximately 50 Women's Institutes. Eight educational sessions were conducted and several media releases prepared.

Professional and secretarial support services were offered to the Summerside District Women in Support of Agriculture. Four educational sessions were conducted and a newsletter prepared.

Courses/Information

Sessions/Demonstrations/Tours

Staff co-ordinated educational activities for clients in co-operation with Provincial Specialists and Farm Organizations

- Potato Information Session (Kinkora)
- Potato Day (Charlottetown)
- Potato Information Session (Charlottetown)
- Making the Grade Seminar (North River)
- Malpeque Fertilizers Information Day (Summerside)
- NSAC Potato Tour (Summerside)
- Elite Seed Farm Tour (Fox Island)
- Potato Grading Course (Kinkora)
- Reproductive Seminar (O'Leary)
- Profitable Dairy Farming Seminar (Summerside)
- Summerside District Dairy Producers Annual Meeting
- Dairy Feeding Systems Tour (Summerside District)
- Dairy Policy Seminar (Summerside)
- C.P. Purfo Dairy Information Session
- Dairy Software Demonstration (Atlantic Veterinary College)
- Master Feeds Feeding Seminar
- Cattlemen's Information Meeting (Summerside)
- Bred Heifer Sale (Charlottetown)
- Joint Beef Breeds Banquet (Charlottetown)
- P.E.I. Cattlemen's Annual Meeting (Charlottetown)
- P.E.I. Hereford Breeders Annual Meeting (Charlottetown)
- Swine Days (Summerside)
- Hay Dryer Seminar (Charlottetown)
- Ag Bag Demonstration (Winsloe)
- Soil & Crop Directors' meeting (Summerside/Charlottetown)
- Harrington Experimental Farm Tour (Harrington)
- Injector Wrap Demonstration (Springfield)
- (2) Round Bale Tube Silage Demonstration (Port Hill/Borden)
- Soil & Crop Tour (Provincial)
- Agri-Trends Conference (Charlottetown)
- Community Pasture Planning Meetings (Kellys Cross/Ellerslie)
- District Forage Council Planning Meeting (Summerside)
- Canadian Seed Growers Association Tour (provincial)
- Compost Tour (Summerside District)
- Pesticide Information Meeting (Summerside)
- Soil Conservation Meeting (Summerside)
- Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting (Summerside)
- Soil Conservation Tour (New Brunswick)
- Diesel Engines Course (Summerside)
- Beekeepers Workshop (Summerside)
- Fruit Tree Tour (Summerside District)
- Agricultural Trade Fair (Summerside)
- Master Gardener Program (Summerside)
- Lupin Demonstration (Port Hill)
- (3) Career Days (Three Oaks, Summerside)
- Anhydrous Ammonia Workshop (Summerside)
- Income Tax Session (Summerside)
- Lobster Carnival - Livestock Exhibition (Summerside)
- Mont Carmel & Egmont Bay Exhibition (Mt. Carmel)
- Kensington Harvest Festival - 4-H program (Kensington)
- WSA Workshop (Summerside)
- (8) WI Information Sessions (District)
- (5) Nutrition Seminars (Summerside)
- Red Meat Promotion Workshop (Summerside)
- Preserving the Harvest Workshop (Summerside)
- Step by Step Home Study Course (District)
- (7) Home Financial Management Presentations (Summerside)
- 4-H Executive Workshop (Summerside)
- 4-H Leaders Banquet (Miscouche)
- District 4-H Bowling Competition (Summerside)
- District 4-H Ice Sports (Summerside)
- (8) 4-H Club Communications nights
- (3) 4-H Communication Area Rallies
- 4-H Communications District Final (Summerside)
- Home Economics Leaders Workshop (Summerside)
- 4-H Interview Workshop (Summerside)
- (6) District Council Meetings (Summerside)

Staff Development Opportunities

District staff took advantage of the following educational conferences and tours to keep abreast of new technology and ideas in agriculture

- Agricultural Credit Conference (British Columbia)
- World Dairy Expo (Madison, Wisconsin)
- Ecological Agricultural Tour (Quebec)
- Farm Management Conference (St. John, New Brunswick)
- Bank of Montreal Outlook Conference (Charlottetown)
- Soil Conservation Tour (New Brunswick)
- Atlantic Committee of Economics, Extension, Education (ACEEE - Mill River)
- Department of Agriculture Staff Conference (Charlottetown)
- Computer Training (Charlottetown/Summerside)

Charlottetown District Office

A major activity of the Charlottetown Extension staff is to respond to requests from farm families on a wide range of topics from production and management to foods and nutrition. This information has been delivered on a one-to-one basis or through farm organizations or small groups by means of courses and workshops held throughout the year.

Another major activity of the district is to administer government programs and advise on which of these programs might be suitable to the specific farm operation.

The summer student worked exclusively on the Soil and Crop plots which have been very ambitious this year.

During the year staff took advantage of the opportunity to update themselves on more sustainable agriculture practices by attending seminars, workshops, demonstrations and touring other provinces to gather information. This is an effort to be better prepared to answer the questions of farm families seeking advice in this area.

Livestock

Dairy producers had their questions answered on the new veterinary service offered through the Atlantic Veterinary College at a Dairy Health Management Update Seminar. The services of the animal hospital were explained along with an update on Prairie Dairy, a new computerized information system on herd health.

A number of district dairy producers participated in a World Dairy Expo Tour to Wisconsin sponsored by the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative (ALFI). Research Stations and farms were visited as well as the dairy show and exhibits. Much information was gathered on feeding management and equipment.

Dairy Day was held in December with a presentation on Profitable Dairy Farming by special guest speaker Dr. Andy Johnson. Second generation milking equipment was a highlight of his presentation.

There is an increased interest in silage and mechanical feeding among dairymen following a poor season for harvesting forages as hay.

Beef producers have improved their handling facilities through the assistance of ALFI and the Cattlemen's Association. The Beef Specialist works directly with farmers in the Charlottetown District on all aspects of the industry. District staff have assisted in recommendations for grazing management and handling facilities.

Over 90 hog producers participated in a Swine Nutrition Day which was held with special guest, Dr. Phil Thacker, speaking on feeding practices to improve efficiency .

A Least Cost Ration Workshop was popular with district producers as well as a Swine Herd Health Management evening. Producers had a chance to work on their own ration formulation and get many health management questions answered.

Cereals and Forages

Wet weather throughout much of the summer and fall made hay making difficult and caused increased diseases on cereal crops. Verticillium wilt, a serious disease of alfalfa, was reported on several fields across the district. This disease had not been previously observed on P.E.I.

Lupins, a new protein crop, were grown at a number of locations in the district with varying degrees of success. Late maturity in the fall was the major problem with this crop.

Eight producers were assisted under ALFI for an Intensive Cereal Management scouting program.

Sustainable Agriculture continued to be a growing concern of many producers. Producers are applying less pesticides, using different cover crops in rotation and making better use of animal manures and waste by-products.

Potatoes

Since the department's re-organization, more potato producers are using the District Office as a contact point for information.

A very successful Potato Grading Seminar was held in late November, highlighting the importance of maintaining our quality in the marketplace.

Farm Management

Many producers were assisted with cashflows and credit applications to Land Development Corporation, P.E.I. Lending Authority, Farm Credit Corporation and banks.

A computer course was held for the second year and attended by 22 farmers.

Individual counselling was done on estate planning, record keeping and analysis, and all areas of financial management.

Charlottetown Soil and Crop Improvement Association

The Charlottetown District Soil and Crop Improvement Association had a very active year. The Association held an evening meeting on forages and farm safety in February, an Alfalfa Day in March, and its annual meeting in December.

A tour of the Upton Research Station was the major event of the summer, with about 60 farmers attending. Ten members conducted plot work, and a tour of some of these plots was held in August.

The purchase of a second Brillion seeder with ALFI funding enabled the association to serve more members at the proper seeding time. Over 850 acres of forages were seeded with the two seeders in 1988, compared with about 400 acres seeded in 1987.

The Charlottetown District Office staff continued to work closely with the Association in 1988, assisting with the plot work and information meetings when requested.

ALFI

The Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative Program continued to be a major focus of the District Office in 1988.

About 200 producers were working with the District Office on ALFI projects during the year.

Over 90 new applications were received in 1988, most of which were for the new technology sub-program of ALFI. The On-Farm Storage and Handling sub-program of ALFI did not receive any new applications, as all funds under this sub-program were committed in 1987. However, many of the On-Farm Storage and Handling projects were completed and assistance paid in 1988.

Overall, district staff carried out inspections and assisted in claiming assistance for about 200 completed projects during the year.

Home Economics

Education and promotion programs were planned, co-ordinated and implemented for pork, beef and strawberries through the promotion committees of their corresponding commodity groups. These activities were carried out by the District Home Economist from May to September.

A market education session on pork was presented to 100 pork producers in conjunction with Swine Nutrition Day.

The Calcium Calculator Program was requested by five groups for a total of 183 persons. Two other promotion programs,"Island Foods In The Microwave" and "Give A Little Of The Island" were presented to two groups for a combined total of 162 persons.

Programs to increase public awareness and understanding of the agricultural industry include "Rhyme & Reason...Insights Into Your Grocery Cart" and "What's What In Agriculture". These were presented to three groups for a total of 75 persons.

"Step By Step", a money management home study course was offered to 21 participants.

In addition to agricultural commodity groups, the Home Economist worked with Women's Institute, 4-H and Women In Support of Agriculture.

There were over 1200 consumer requests for information on foods, nutrition and home management.

Radio programs, CornerPost and newspaper articles were the vehicles used for presenting a wide range of Home Economics topics.

4-H

There continues to be strong support for the District 4-H Program as a total of 407 members and their leaders had a very successful and enjoyable year.

Charlottetown District Council held six executive council and six council meetings. The Council sponsored the Leader's Annual Lobster Banquet as recognition to leaders and their spouses for volunteering through 4-H. This year three longstanding leaders of the Wheatley River 4-H Club were recognized for their contribution to 4-H. They were Reta Ling, Helen Roberts, and Hilda Stead.

Staff assisted at the reorganization of 13 clubs, judged at 19 club communications, 4 area rallies, the District Public Speaking night, the District Demonstration night and attended 16 Achievement Days.

A successful workshop was held for leaders of the new Microwaving Island Foods Project; staff worked at the Club Executive Training Workshop and interviewed for National Award trips. "Members' Memo" was printed and sent to 4-H families bi-monthly. CornerPost articles and the 4-H Radio Programs were prepared.

The Rabbit and new Poultry projects are very popular as are the Dairy, Beef, Garden, Foods, Needlecraft and Exploring 4-H. Members exhibited their projects from the Dundas Exhibition to Crapaud and Summerside Exhibitions and also at the Rural Youth Fair and Provincial Exhibition.

The demonstration team of Sally and Heidi Wood won the Atlantic 4-H Demonstration title. All three 4-H Scholarships went to Charlottetown District members: Lori Weeks, CNE Scholarship; Elizabeth Younker, Provincial 4-H Scholarship; Andrew MacKenzie, Petro Canada Scholarship. All members of this year's Scotiabank Contact Hays Dairy Classic at the Royal Winter Fair were from the District.

Education Courses/Events for Clients

Charlottetown Extension Staff attend many meetings and events not listed here but organized by other groups or individuals. This is done to keep abreast of developments in the industry and to be more aware of the current issues facing farm families today.

(This includes events where presentations were made or programs organized by staff)

Event	Attendance
Dairy Health Management Seminar	40
Farm Computer Course	24
Ch'town District Soil & Crop Evening Meeting	25
Alfalfa Day	40
Canadian Seed Growers Tour	175
Ch'town District Soil & Crop Upton Farm Tour	60
Ch'town District Soil & Crop Plot Tour	11
AVC Students Tour - 2 Dairy Farms	45
Pasture Management Course	24
Ch'town District Soil & Crop Annual Meeting	30
Swine Nutrition Day	98
Least Cost Ration Workshop	37
Swine Herd Health Management	55
Farm Women - Developing Leadership Skills (WSA)	25
Farm Family Safety Day	56
4-H Leaders Microwave Workshop	9
Step By Step Financial Management Home Study Course	21
What's What In Agriculture (Agricultural Awareness)	40
Calcium Calculator - 5 Sessions	183
Market Education Program - Swine Nutrition Day	100
It's About Time - 2 Sessions	27
WI Area Conventions - 5	450
Island Foods In The Microwave	62
Rhyme & Reason (2)	35
Give A Little Of The Island (2)	100
Preserving The Harvest (2)	35
Ch'town District Council Meetings (6)	260
Ch'town Executive Council Meetings (6)	25
4-H Leaders' Banquet	110
Brudenell Tour Day	45
2 District Communication Rallies	125
4 Area Communication Rallies	375
17 Club Communication Rallies	1000
Bowling - Leaders & Members	250
4-H Executive Training	125
16 Achievement Days	1200
Award Trip Interviews	20
Ch'town District Ice Sports	400
13 Re-Organizational Meetings	650

Montague District Office

Livestock

Work with livestock producers is done both on a one-to-one basis and also in group activities. The district staff tries to work closely with appropriate specialists to carry out specific programs and projects and to respond to individual requests. District staff also try to work with and give support to district producer groups, to assist them in carrying out their projects and information sessions.

This year extension activities in beef focused on individual work with producers. There has been good response in this district to the new Lean Beef Assistance Program.

Because district swine producers were voicing concerns to staff about a number of issues, primarily in the area of marketing, a day-long program addressing these concerns was organized. Ration formulation, mill calibration, Swine Productivity Program, and Swine Incentive Program are all areas where district staff have dealt with producers.

A number of district dairy farmers exited the industry in 1988, and there appears to be no reversal in the trend to downsize the dairy industry in this district. A session on Raising Dairy Calves and Heifers and a dairy barn meeting were held during the year.

This office sponsored a Coyote Information Session in the spring, in response to concerns over the spreading and growing coyote population.

Staff have considerable contact with district fox and mink producers, and a fox information session was held in the fall. One staff member attended meetings of the Atlantic Fur Committee during the year.

The headgate and other pieces of equipment available to be borrowed by livestock producers are always in great demand.

Cereals, Protein Crops and Forages

In cereals, farmers show increased interest in intensive or improved cereal management (ICM), applying greater management and in some cases more inputs to the crops. This interest was further supported by the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative (ALFI) Technology Adoption project on ICM. Milling wheat acreage increased greatly in 1988 but unfortunately only a small percentage met the quality standards for milling purposes.

Pastures are receiving more attention from livestock producers, and considerable individual work has been done with farmers on pastures. The District Office sponsored both a pasture tour and a three-session pasture course in the fall.

Alfalfa Day in January was well-received. Verticillium wilt in alfalfa was identified on one farm in the District this fall, and it is expected that it likely exists on other farms.

A district information session on the establishment of a forage council in P.E.I. attracted some interested farmers, and resulted in interesting discussions.

Interest in all approaches to silage-making grows, and the whole gamut of alternatives was tried in the District this year, many with support from the ALFI Program. Because weather conditions were so unfavourable to hay-making, many farmers used two or three different systems on their own farm. Most of us have much to learn about making silage successfully.

There is a steady interest in soybean production, as farmers find an appropriate place for soybeans in their farming system. Staff support has been given to the P.E.I. Bean Growers' Co-operative in its early years of operation.

Lupins were tried for the first time on a commercial basis in the Montague District this year. Unfortunately seed supplies arrived too late in the spring for the crop to experience the full growing period required, and as a result of this and other factors, most crops were harvested late and at high moisture levels.

A great deal of the summer student's work was in field crops.

Extension efforts in these crops are largely channelled through the District Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Potatoes

The main thrust by this office in potato production is to support the provincial aphid alert service and late blight forecast program. The summer student was responsible for visiting stations and traps and filing reports twice weekly from early June through August. Regular district staff maintained this schedule from the time the summer student left until late September.

Other Crops

Staff assisted with the Coloured Bean Evaluation Project, sponsored by the P.E.I. Bean Growers Co-operative and funded by Agriculture Canada's Alternative Enterprise Initiative Program. The summer student collected field data for the Co-op.

Staff assisted with the Annual Tobacco Sale.

Farm and Home Financial Management

Providing information and counselling to farm families on financial management is a priority. This was primarily done on a one-to-one basis, and covered a wide range of topics: cash flow budgeting, credit counselling, tax management, personal money management, farm transfers and partnerships, farm plan preparation, and farm record systems. The microcomputer is an invaluable tool to assist staff and farm families in this work.

A Farm Estate Planning Workshop focusing on farm transfers was held. The Step-by-Step Correspondence Course on personal money management was taken by three district people this year. "The Law - For Farmers" session was well attended and received. A session on tax reform in time for 1988 tax planning was offered.

In 1988, district office staff became involved in the new Land Development Corporation Lease Back to Vendor Program through the three-party management agreements that are part of the lease agreements. In the Montague District there are two management agreements fully in place under Lease Back to Vendor, with three more approved, and two management agreements for regular LDC leases. These agreements provide opportunities for district staff and farmers to work closely together so that the goals of the farmer can be accomplished.

District staff completed farm surveys in co-operation with Farm Credit Corporation during the period January to March. Of the 26 assigned surveys, we completed 16, had 9 refusals and 1 person was no longer farming.

Interest in obtaining computers and programs for farm use is steadily increasing. One staff member attended a week-long computer course at NSAC.

One staff person is taking a UPEI accounting course.

District Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Montague District Soil and Crop Improvement Association continues to be a vital and active organization, with which the district office staff works closely in carrying out its soils, cereals and forages extension programs. In 1988 there were 132 members.

During the year the Association sponsored a number of events, including: Cereal Production Update, Round Bale Silage Equipment Demonstration, Twilight Meeting in Bridgetown and Primrose, Family Picnic Day, Annual Meeting and Banquet.

The Brillion seeder was once again in great demand. This is the first year that the Souris Soil and Crop Improvement Association has had its own seeder and trailer. As a result, the "Montague" seeder did not have to travel as far. It was used to seed 579 acres on 45 farms. In addition a further 129 acres on 6 farms were seeded in the Montague District with the new Souris seeder: for a total of 708 acres on 51 farms.

The breakdown of use for the Montague seeder is as follows: Alfalfa - 35%, Annual Ryegrass - 23%, Triple Mix - 20%, Pastures - 17%, Kale - 3%, Other - 2%. With funding from ALFI, an acreage meter and track removers were added to the seeder this year, and were welcome additions by most users.

The Montague - Souris Department of Agriculture summer student co-ordinated the scheduling of the seeder and moved it from farm to farm.

Some of the field projects carried out in the District this year included

- Demonstration of Growing Lupins; Cardigan
- Mixed Grain Comparison; Leger & Marion vs Helena & Nova, Martin MacLeod, Primrose
- Field Peas; Victoria & Century, Donnie Robbins, Uigg
- Growing Kale for Dairy Cattle; Bennett MacKinnon, St. Georges
- Alfalfa Variety Comparison; Crusader, Primal and Saranac, Dan Hughes, Milltown Cross
- Evaluation of Plow-Down Crops; Jim McCabe,Iona
- Comparison of Pasture Renovation; Vincent Naddy, Methods (done in 1987), Newtown Cross

P.E.I. Soil and Crop Improvement Association had provincial projects in the District as well

- Spring Cereal and Soybean Variety Demonstration; Colin MacLeod, (ALFI-funded),Bridgetown
- Winter Wheat Variety Demonstration; Harvey Mitchell, Primrose
- Soybean Variety and Production Practices Demonstration Herman and Andrew VanWiechen (ALFI-funded), Brooklyn

P.E.I. Soil and Crop PEP Project on alfalfa had as co-operators from this district: John Knox, Eldon; and Pius Walsh, Elliotvale.

ALFI

Staff are responsible for delivery of the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative Program in the District, and one staff member chairs the Technology Evaluation, Adoption and Dissemination Advisory Committee. Some 104 farmers from this District are applicants under various segments of the Program. The most popular Technology Adoption projects in the Montague District have been Intensive Cereal Management projects. There continues to be a great deal of interest in the Storage and Handling Sub-Program which has not accepted applications since October 1, 1987.

Foods and Nutrition

The Montague District Home Economist served as nutrition resource person within the Department. In this capacity, she also served on P.E.I.'s Interdepartmental Nutrition Committee, on the Atlantic Committee on Food and on the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Nutrition. She was a member of the provincial committee which organized a Cancer Society Forum on "Food and Cancer". She was also involved with the Canadian Heart Foundation Public Education Committee whose current educational campaign is focusing on nutrition.

The Montague District Home Economist made a presentation to the Annual International Conference of the Society for Nutrition Education, held in Toronto in June. Her topic was "Market Segmentation: Successful Strategies for Nutrition Education". To prepare for this, she contacted all provinces to find out what comprised their nutrition education programs.

The District Home Economist judged foods classes at three exhibitions.

The thrust of Island foods promotion work was focused through the media this year - via newspaper and CornerPost articles and radio programs. Many individual requests for information were also handled.

School Milk Program

The Montague District Home Economist served as one of the two co-ordinators for the School Milk Program and as secretary to the P.E.I. School Milk Foundation Ltd. until November, 1988, when these duties were transferred to the Summerside District Home Economist.

4-H

4-H in the District is "alive and well". For the 1987-1988 4-H year, there were 7 clubs with 93 members, and 113 projects completed. Eleven senior members from several clubs took part in an extra special project called "Challenge '88". This was a pilot project developed by the senior members themselves and their leader, with the following objectives: to increase the involvement of older members in 4-H and in district activities and to provide input to District and Provincial Councils about how to keep older members in 4-H. They met every two weeks, and organized activities such as a curling bonspiel for senior members and leaders in Montague and Souris Districts, and a float for Montague Summer Days Parade. Activities organized by the District Council included Annual Awards Day for all members, where Club of the Year Award was presented to the Brooklyn-Heatherdale 4-H Club and Most Improved Club of the Year to Sturgeon Bay 4-H Club. A successful project workshop for leaders from Souris and Montague was also held. Another joint activity of the two districts was a very successful Intermediate Members Conference in April. Fun Day for 4-H families was held in July.

The communications aspect of 4-H continues to be a strong feature of the program.

Winners of the District Competition were:

Junior Public Speaking	Mindy Oulton Uigg-Kinross Newcomers 4-H Club
Intermediate Public Speaking	Shelly Dunn Summerville 4-H Club
Senior Public Speaking	Rhonda McCabe Belfast Conquerors 4-H Club
Single Demonstrations	Justin MacLeod Uigg-Kinross Newcomers 4-H Club
Double Demonstrations	Billie Jo and Sandra Davis Sturgeon Bay 4-H Club

Justin MacLeod went on to place first at both the Provincial level and in the Atlantic Competition.

Members and Leaders from the District who were selected for award trips were: Cindy Leard and Stephen MacDonald, Citizenship Conference; Rhonda Ann McCabe, National Members Conference; Billie Jo Davis, Ambassador Conference; Susan MacKinnon, National Leaders' Conference; and Kevin Walker, Atlantic Conference.

International Agricultural Exchange Association

The Montague Farm Management Representative is the Department's contact for the International Agricultural Exchange Association. She responded to a number of inquiries during the year, and interviewed one new applicant. Kim Munroe, Montague, returned in June from an eight-month placement in New Zealand.

Leadership Development

Staff members work with local 4-H Clubs and the 4-H Leaders Council, Women's Institute branches and area conventions, local Women In Support of Agriculture, and local farm organizations in areas of leadership development, to assist these groups to better carry out their mandates and better serve their members.

One staff member was involved in helping to organize a local seminar of the P.E.I. Women's Network.

Staff support is given to the Dundas Exhibition.

Other

More requests on sustainable and ecological farming techniques are forthcoming, and staff are trying to respond to these. One staff member participated in the staff training tour to Quebec in September. We have two applications in this District for the new Sustainable Agriculture Program.

The district office staff attempt to keep up-to-date on all provincial and federal government and farm organization programs for farmers, so that information and assistance with applications can be given with confidence.

A large number of farmers have been assisted with fuel tax rebate applications. Over 200 Special Canadian Grains Program applications were completed and witnessed by district staff.

Applicants to the Soil pH Adjustment Program were assisted with their claims.

Other programs dealt with include: Feed Freight Assistance, various stabilization programs, Canadian Rural Transition Program, Economic and Regional Development Agreement Programs, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and many others. Some assistance on the off-farm training component of Nova Scotia Agricultural College's Farm Skills Program was given.

A Welding Course, sponsored by NSAC and the fourth to be offered at Montague Regional High School, was organized for farmers and fishermen by the office. A day-long Diesel Engine Course was offered to farmers.

A Safety Education Day for farm families was held in early April.

District staff are involved in committee work of various kinds at the provincial level.

Various staff training events and activities were attended.

Through ALFI, a lap-top computer and portable printer were obtained for use on farms in the District. The potential to increase on-farm planning for crops and livestock feeding is great with these versatile machines.

Education Courses/Events

Below is a summary of District Short Courses, Information Sessions, Tours where presentations were made or programs organized by staff, (does not include sessions sponsored by 4-H, Soil and Crop or other groups).

Event	Duration
Alfalfa Day	1 day
The Law -for Farmers	1 evening
Step-by-Step Correspondence Course	several lessons mailed out over 3 months
Swine Issues	1 day
Dundas Community School--Nutrition Presentation	1 evening
Welding Course 30 hours Diesel Engine Course	1 day
Maritime Tobacco Meeting	1 day
Raising Dairy Calves & Heifers	1 day
Forage Council Information Meeting	1/2 day
Farm Estate Planning Workshop	1 day
Cancer Society Public Forum: Food & Cancer	1/2 day
Farm Family Safety Day	1 day
Coyote Information Session	1 day
Successful Round Bale Silage Making	1 evening
Pasture Tour	1/2 day
Fox Information Session	1 day
WI Fall Workshop	1 evening
Pasture Course	3 x 1/2 day
Barn Meeting for Dairy Farmers	1/2 day
Tax Reform School	1 evening

Souris District Office

Responding to requests for information from farmers is a major role of the Souris District Staff. In working with farm families and rural organizations, staff attempt to identify areas of common interest or concern and organize information meetings, courses or workshops to address these areas.

In addition to district responsibilities, the District Home Economist has been responsible for co-ordination of Provincial 4-H Home Economics projects and programs.

A summer student worked out of the Souris Office during the summer months. This student worked on a wide range of Soil and Crop projects and district programs in both the Souris and Montague districts.

Staff took advantage of Atlantic workshops in Farm Management and Supervision and also participated in a Sustainable Agriculture Farm Tour to Quebec.

Livestock

The majority of extension activities in the livestock sector involved individual contact with farmers. However, a number of organized events were held or promoted.

In dairy, a number of farmers are experiencing problems in getting hired help, especially trained help, to provide relief milking services. Several meetings were held between interested farms and Agricultural Employment Services. Various options and training programs were discussed but a firm plan of action has not yet been identified. Also in dairy, three district farmers, along with a number of other Island dairy farmers, attended the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

In beef, several additional cow-calf farmers signed up for calf weighing under the Lean Beef Program. Several farmers who finish beef have applied for handling facilities under the same program. Bull selection and cross-breeding continue to be important topics.

District swine farmers were invited to participate in a swine issues meeting organized by the Montague District. Topics included discussion on grading and indexing of market hogs and producer group activities. There was an excellent turnout for this event.

A Fur Day was also held for Souris and Montague fox and mink ranchers. Topics covered pelt grading, pen design and nutrition. There was good participation by local ranchers.

For people interested in bees, a one evening session on beekeeping was held.

The Montague Veterinary Clinic finished construction of a clinic in Souris. The service offered to area farmers appears to be working out well.

Cereals and Forages

Once again the major activity in the cereal area was the witnessing of applicant signatures under the Special Canadian Grains Program (111 applications). As well, 23 farmers were assisted with applications under the Federal Stabilization Program for payments on the sale of barley, oats and mixed grain. Staff insured that all farmers were made aware of the various grain assistance programs. In the process, further requests for crop management information were received.

Staff attended an area meeting on milling wheat production offered by an agri-business firm. A number of farmers grew milling wheat but none of the crop met milling standards.

In forages, there continues to be interest in and a switch to silage. The difficulty in putting up field-dried hay with the damp weather conditions experienced has resulted in some farmers going to bagged silage systems while others are storing in horizontal silos.

A number of farmers have set up pasture grazing systems with assistance under ALFI for electric fencing equipment. A round bale silage meeting and field demonstration held in the Montague District were also promoted.

The District Office works in close co-operation with the local Soil and Crop Improvement Association in offering information meetings and field tours related to cereals and forages.

Potatoes

In co-operation with a number of farmers and provincial specialists, the summer student was involved with checking and monitoring blight stations and aphid traps set up in potato fields across the district.

An information meeting was organized for producers so that they could be aware of assistance available from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). In addition, there were several meetings of a small group of producers interested in the possibilities of ACOA funding for group storage and grading facilities.

The Minister of Agriculture also had a meeting with local potato dealers to discuss the Driscoll Royal Commission Report with the potato industry.

Farm and Home Management

The majority of work in this area continues to be on an individual basis. A lot of time was spent with several farmers in developing and evaluating various cash flow and farm plan options. The availability of an office computer has greatly reduced the time required to do cash flows.

An Estate Planning Workshop was held with topics on wills, farm business agreements and tax planning. The workshop featured a panel of local farmers discussing their business agreements with other farm partners.

District staff also became more involved with the Land Development Corporation and its Lease Back Program. A number of LDC board meetings were attended and at year end there was one Souris District farm approved under the program.

District staff also co-operated with the Farm Credit Corporation in surveying randomly selected farmers for the Canadian Farm Financial Survey. Staff contacted 17 farmers and 11 surveys were fully completed while 6 farmers refused to participate.

Farmers requesting assistance were also helped with applications for rebates on various fuel taxes (26), Feed Freight Assistance (3), ACOA Assistance (2) and Market Development Program Initiatives (1). Numerous inquiries were also handled regarding these programs.

In addition, staff also served as a source of agricultural information for two community development studies being conducted. One was for the Eastern Kings Area and the other was for Souris and Area.

Soil and Crop Improvement Association

The District Soil and Crop Improvement Association had a membership of 42 in 1988. This is the lowest since 1982 and the reasons for this are not clear.

The Association sponsored a number of events in co-operation with the District Office and these included: Grain Storage and Drying Session, Cereal Project Tour Pasture Tour and Annual Meeting.

The Brillion seeder, purchased with funding from ALFI, was used by 20 farmers to seed 286 acres of forage which included straight alfalfa, alfalfa mixes, pasture mixes, kale and annual ryegrass. Also with ALFI funding, a trailer was purchased in order to move the Brillion from farm to farm. At year end, the Association was also approved by ALFI to purchase a track remover attachment for the Brillion Seeder.

The District Soil and Crop Improvement Association, along with the Provincial Association in some cases, worked with a number of local farmers on various crop demonstration projects. These were as follows: Cereal Variety Demonstration Site, Kale for Extended Grazing, Ragwort Control, Oat Variety Comparison, Annual Ryegrass Variety Comparison, and Two-Cut vs Three-Cut Alfalfa

Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative (ALFI)

Activity under ALFI was fairly slow during 1988 with the majority of time spent doing claims, inspections and project updates for farmers who had applied in 1987. A number of farmers were interested in hay and grain storage projects; however, due to the budget being already committed under this section of ALFI, their applications could not be accepted. A number of farmers did apply under the Technology Dissemination Section and were approved for such projects as feeding systems and intensive pasture grazing set-ups.

At year end and since the initiation of ALFI, 34 farmers have applied for assistance on various projects. The estimated cost of projects approved totalled $345,000.

Food and Nutrition

Home Economics topics including foods, nutrition and home management information were dealt with in a variety of manners from individual requests to group presentations to the use of the media such as newspaper and radio.

Forty radio tapes were prepared on topics related to Island foods and aired on the newly formatted Agriculture Today program.

Group requests were received from Community Schools for foods related presentations. Commodity education sessions were held for two groups with combined attendance of 18. A general session of foods and nutrition was requested by another Community School but only three people attended.

A session on Personal Money Management was requested by the Morell Community School and eight people attended.

Consumer requests in the areas of Foods and Nutrition and Home Management allowed people to receive the needed information on a one to one basis.

4-H

The District 4-H Program saw the loss of one club as only eight clubs functioned this year with an enrollment of 128 members.

4-H members, under the guidance of many volunteer leaders, completed projects in the areas of beef, dairy, garden, tractor, woodworking, great out-doors and small engines as well as in the areas of crafts, needlecraft, sewing and foods. Some clubs had excellent completion rates while others were very low and the end result was 123 projects completed.

The first Montague-Souris District 4-H Intermediate Member's Conference was held this year. Assistance from Provincial 4-H, and funds raised from local agricultural businesses helped support this Conference attended by almost 50 4-H'ers from across the two districts.

Souris and Montague Districts also combined to hold an Executive Training Workshop for 47 members.

The District Council sponsored a number of events including Leader's Night, District Communications, Junior Bowling, a bus trip to Rainbow Valley, a Beef Workshop, a Dairy Workshop, day at Brudenell and District Ice Sports. The Council also worked with an Island agricultural food processing business to raise funds for 4-H at our local Exhibition and area Trade Fair.

District staff assisted members and leaders on a one-to-one basis and in group work with information on the various aspects of the 4-H program and activities including re-organization, preparation for communications events and judging of communications and of Achievement Day items.

Media

In addition to individual contact, courses and meetings, the District Office Staff is in contact with clientele by the following means

- Articles in CornerPost
- PostScripts for WI News
- Monthly 4-H Newsletter
- District Soil & Crop Newsletter
- Souris District Radio Show (every 5th week)
- Various other Agr. and Home Ec. radio show topics
- Home Economics Radio Show - Agriculture Today
- Miscellaneous interviews with media reporters
- Various flyers and circulars advertising meetings, workshops and courses

Education Courses/Events

(This includes events where presentations were made or programs organized and promoted by Staff)

Event	Attendance
Estate Planning Workshop	16
Beekeeping Course	8
Diesel Engine Workshop	12
Swine Issues Meeting	36
Soil and Crop Night	8
ACOA Assistance For Potato Growers	15
Field Tour - Cereal Project Site	15
Pasture Tour	8
Fur Day	25
District Soil and Crop Annual Meeting	50
4-H - Beef Project Workshop	11
4-H - Dairy Project Workshop	8
Souris-Montague 4-H Executive Training	47
Souris-Montague Intermediate 4-H Conference	48
Souris District 4-H Council Annual Meeting	22
Community School Session	
Commodity Education (2)	18
Food & Nutrition (1)	3
Personal Money Mgt. (1)	8
4-H Project Leader's Workshop (Souris & Montague)	16

In addition to these, staff were involved in organization, participation or judging at a number of other activities which involved clientele. These included farm and rural organization meetings, fairs and exhibitions, 4-H re-organizational meetings and 4-H communications project events.

Other Client Events

(This category includes events attended by staff)

Event	Attendance
P.E.I. Potato Marketing Plan	30
Dairy Herd Worker Meeting (2)	10
ACOA - Group Assistance For Potatoes (2)	12
Eastern Kings Artificial Breeders Annual Meeting	8
Minister and Potato Dealers Meeting	9
Training Through CEIC Program	7
Provincial Agri-Trends Conference	
WI Fall Workshop	20+
Area WI Conventions (2)	85
Prov. WI Annual Convention	
District 4-H Leader's Night	40
Prov. 4-H Council's Annual Meeting	

Sustainable Agriculture Section

The Sustainable Agriculture Section contains five parts: Sustainable Agriculture, Small Farms, Soil Conservation, Training and 4-H.

A new initiative in sustainable agriculture was funded. The first part of the new initiative included funding for the development of resources in sustainable agriculture. The following was accomplished: resource materials in the form of books, periodicals and videos were purchased; the Institute of Island Studies was hired to document an Oral History on traditional farming practices; the Bioregional Farmer/Scientist Workshop on Organic Agriculture held in Fredericton on November 18-20 was supported; the costs of four resource people were paid and P.E.I. producers were assisted with arrangements for attendance; eleven staff members travelled to Quebec in September to tour ecological farms; two staff members attended the International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture Systems in Ohio in September. Three seminars/workshops for staff were funded during the year; the first on manure composting on April 25 with Tom Harding as the resource person, the second on Alternative Cropping System on November 21 with Roger Samson from REAP, and the third on Agricultural Effects on Groundwater Pollution on December 7 featuring Dr. George Hallberg as the resource person.

The second part of the new initiative included funding for 20 farmers to demonstrate more sustainable farming systems. Eight applications were received. One application was approved for a manure composting demonstration.

Small Farms Program

This program offers a specialized on-farm extension service to all small-scale and part-time farmers. It emphasizes economic development opportunities specifically designed for small farm operations, including appropriate information and technology, management of commodities, record keeping and development of information not available locally. The program also assists groups who wish to co-operate in collective projects and programs.

Staff

There are 13 Agricultural Resource Worker positions in the Small Farms Program. During 1988 they offered program services to 474 families.

Small Farms Board

In 1988 the Small Farms Board included six small scale and/or part-time farmers who advise the Minister and the Program on Small Farm Policy and direction. During 1988, Trudy White from Iris was the Acting Chairperson. The Board met five times during 1988.

Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener Program sucessfully completed its fifth year in Charlottetown and its third year in Summerside. The program functions through the volunteer time of experienced home gardeners who assist the Department with home gardening calls.

New volunteers to the program are given a 48 hour training program which is exchanged for 50 hours of volunteer time. In 1988, seven new volunteers joined the program, seven volunteers returned for their second year, three volunteers returned for their fourth year and one volunteer returned to the program for her fifth year.

In Charlottetown, 15 volunteers donated 570 hours of volunteer time to the program and answered over 550 calls. The 3 Summerside volunteers contributed over 130 hours to the program and answered over 120 calls. During the 5 years of the program, 28 volunteers have donated 2142 hours of volunteer time and have answered 2170 home gardening inquiries.

The Master Gardeners attended the Maritime Horticultural and Home Gardening Conference and Trade Show held in Moncton in March.

Home Gardener

The Horticultural Technician and a number of the certified Master Gardeners made numerous media presentations, community group and community school presentations and were involved in hospital and community fairs.

Courses

Approximately 80 people attended an excellent one day seminar entitled "Finding Markets and Selling Your Products" on February 11 in Charlottetown.

In co-operation with the West Prince District Office, West Prince Beef Day was held on February 8. Twenty-five producers attended the seminar.

The Small Farms Program sponsored three evening meetings on Income Tax on February 8, 9 and 10. Over 60 people attended the sessions in Charlottetown, Summerside and Fortune.

The Small Farms Program organized a successful Orchard Tour in West Prince for October 8. Twenty-two people participated in the tour.

A two-day program on organic strawberry production was held in late April with guest speaker, Thomas Harding, Pennsylvania. The program was organized in conjunction with the P.E.I. Strawberry Growers' Association and was well attended.

Approximately 20 people attended an evening seminar in June featuring George McRobie, President of The Soil Association, England. Mr. McRobie discussed the organic food industry in Great Britain and its development to date.

The Small Farms Program co-ordinated a number of speakers who presented topics in alternative agriculture at the March Agri-Trends Conference: "Dynamic New Approaches for Profit". Daniel LaPointe, a dairy farmer from Bury, Quebec discussed transition from conventional to organic methods. Russell Pocock, a small fruit and vegetable producer, Compton, Quebec discussed organic strawberry production. Ron Gargasz, a beef, cereal and protein crop producer, Volant, Pennsylvania presented topics on edible bean and soybean production. Philip Warman, Nova Scotia Agricultural College discussed soil organic matter management and manure management.

Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative

The Small Farms Program received funding from the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative to carry out four projects. The program co-ordinated an Intensive Pasture Management Project through which 10 dairy and beef producers were assisted to strip-graze a pasture. The second project involved assisting five producers to install barn hay dryers to help them set up a two-cut haying system on their farms.

Six producers and two staff were assisted with travel costs and arrangements to travel to Ontario to investigate liquid manure composting systems.

One producer and an Agriculture Canada researcher were assisted with travel costs to attend a Lupin Field Day in Ontario.

Publications

The Small Farms Program continues to provide material to Corner Post for the Small Farms Section.

A video tape on liquid manure composting - "Preserving Neighbours and Nutrients" was prepared.

The preparation of a report on goat milk production and markets was funded by the Small Farms Program.

Working With Groups

The Small Farms Program assisted the Cream Committee of the P.E.I. Milk Marketing Board in surveying P.E.I.'s cream producers in order to obtain information on their farm plans.

The Small Farms Program assisted in the formation of an Island chapter of the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA). The OCIA is a producer based association involved in organic crop production information exchange and certification of organic foods. Chapters are located throughout North America as well as South and Central America. Assistance provided included development of contacts, review of association by-laws and certification standards and information dissemination.

Other

The Sustainable Agriculture Section Supervisor attended one meeting concerning the P.E.I.-Newfoundland Premiers' Agreement for Small-Scale Renewable Resource Development. The Supervisor also assisted the Jaycees select the Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmer Award.

Small Farms Program
Statistical Summary - December 1988

No. of farm families served: 477

Ages of farmers:

20-29 yrs.	49	30-39 yrs.	96
40-49 yrs.	137	50+	195

Category of farms:

Full-time	146	Part-time	300	Hobby	28

Size of farms: (acres)

0-9	33	10-49	57
50-99	135	100+	246

Commodities on Farms:

Forages	318	Beef	305
Grain	281	Cream	122
Forestry	87	Poultry	83
Swine	82	Fruit	77
Vegetables	43	Horses	2
Sheep	38	Milk	38
Potatoes	37	Organic	29
Self-Sufficient	27	Market Garden	26
Greenhouse	14	Fur	9
Waterfowl	8	Bees	7
Dairy Goats	6	Aquaculture	2

Soil Conservation

The Soil Specialist, at the request of Management Council and with the co-operation and input of the Program Planner, Soil and Water Engineer and the Information Specialist, developed the draft proposal for soil and water conservation programming for the 5-year period, 1989-94.

The Soil Specialist in consultation with those mentioned above (as well as representatives of the P.E.I. Conservation Strategy and the local representative of the National Soil Conservation Program) developed an initial draft of a proposal to establish conservation districts in Prince Edward Island.

Under sponsorship of the P.E.I. Conservation Strategy, the Soil Specialist attended a soil erosion computer modelling workshop and training session in Temple, Texas, followed by a conservation district familiarization tour of district organizations in Waco, Temple, Bryon, Austin and San Antonio.

Other activities in which the Soil Specialist was involved were: advisory role vis a vis the operation of 3 PEP funded erosion/runoff monitoring projects; detailed soil survey of approximately 500 acres of farmland (farmer request); project planning, LDC-Conservation Strategy Land Evaluation project; member Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Committee.

The Soil Specialist was seconded to the appropriate Technology and International Programs Branch in late August.

4-H Program

The programs and activities carried out in 4-H are dictated by the following four objectives:

1. Leadership and Personal Development
   "To increase the effectiveness of rural people in group situations by involving them in leadership development and personal development programs."
2. Family Life
   "To strengthen the total family unit by developing the individual in skills, family relationships, home management and community involvement."
3. Agriculture
   "To help develop viable farm units through instruction in the skills of management, production and marketing of agricultural products."
4. Public Relations
   "To increase the appreciation for agricultural problems, conditions and programs by carrying out a public relations program for consumers, agribusiness, legislators, clientele and future clientele."

Leadership and Personal Development

Under the objective of leadership and personal development, the programs are aimed at the development of leadership and personal abilities of both 4-H leaders and members. With this aim in mind, the programs are designed in such a way as to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to increase their effectiveness in group situations.

Award Trips and Conferences

Sending 4-H members on award trips has been a tradition for the past 52 years. The majority of National and International Programs are sponsored and co-ordinated by the Canadian 4-H Council. 4-H members were involved in award trip programs at either the Atlantic, National or International level during 1988.

Interprovincial Exchange is sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada and co-ordinated by the Canadian 4-H Council. Four Prince Edward Island 4-H members were chosen to travel to four other Canadian provinces. Sherri Dixon from North River 4-H Club travelled to Alberta,

Melanie Warren of Elmsdale Club visited Ontario, Karen Thompson of Dunstaffnage-Marshfield visited Quebec, and Faye Murphy of St. Ann's went to Newfoundland. The Atlantic delegates met in Halifax for an orientation program and an evening with the Atlantic Royal Bank officials. The orientation program and the evening are co-ordinated by the Atlantic 4-H supervisors.

Six 4-H members represented Prince Edward Island at the Citizenship Seminar. The six delegates were as follows: David Dickieson from Cavendish Club; Ellen Larsen, Albany; Cindy Leard, Uigg-Kinross; Stephen MacDonald, Brooklyn-Heatherdale; Wendy Pidgeon, French River and Sally Wood, Mermaid-Mt. Herbert. Heather Dixon, a 4-H leader in the North River 4-H Club, accompanied the Island delegation to this seminar. The theme of this year's Citizenship Seminar was "Young Canadians - Our Nation's Future".

The Canadian 4-H Council sponsors one 4-H member from each province to attend the Washington Conference. Prince Edward Island's representative was Calvin Burt of the French River 4-H Club.

The National 4-H Careers Conference Program, held in Winnipeg, focused on career counselling with many expert resource people. The delegates participated in simulated job interviews with representatives from government and industry. The two Island delegates to this conference were Lynn MacIntyre of Dunstaffnage-Marshfield Club and Maureen Shea of Fort Augustus.

National 4-H Conference with the theme "4-H Building for Tomorrow" was held in Toronto in November at the time of the Royal Winter Fair. Michael Cummiskey, staff person in the West Prince District Office, attended as the chaperone. The 4-H members from Prince Edward Island participating in the 1988 National 4-H Conference were: Paul Godfrey, North River 4-H Club; Laurie Loane, Brooklyn-Heatherdale; Jennifer MacDonald and Janet Thompson, Tri-Com; Terry MacIsaac, Souris West; and Stephen Wallace, Elmsdale.

Canadian National Exhibition Scholarship is sponsored by the Canadian National Exhibition. It was awarded to Lori Weeks of the Pleasant Valley 4-H Club who is currently enrolled in the Home Economics Program at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Twenty-four 4-H members were selected to attend the Atlantic 4-H Ambassadors' Conference (six per province). The objective of this conference is to provide the participants the opportunity to learn how to be a 4-H Ambassador, to inform and sell the 4-H program to others. The main sponsor the the Ambassadors' Conference is CN Atlantic.

The six Island 4-H'ers attending this conference were: Billie Jo Davis, Sturgeon Bay 4-H Club; Randy Dingwell, Morell; Linda Docherty and Tracey Stewart, North River; Christine MacDonald, Sherbrooke; and Jane MacLaurin, Lot 16. The chaperone was Michael Cummiskey, staff person in the West Prince District Office.

P.E.I. hosted, organized and ran the '88 Atlantic 4-H Conference October 13 - 16. The theme of the conference was "Facing the Future."

The Atlantic level of the Public Speaking and Demonstration Competitions were held at this conference. Our five competitors were:

Member	Club	Category
Monique Bernard	Evangeline	Jr. Public Speaking
Jacinta MacDonald	Morell	Public Speaking
Justin MacLeod	Uigg-Kinross	Single Demonstration
Sally & Heidi Wood	Mermaid-Mt. Herbert	Double Demonstration

Justin MacLeod placed first for Atlantic Canada in the Single Demonstration Category and Sally and Heidi Wood placed first in the Double Demonstration Category.

The Island delegates attending the Atlantic 4-H Conference were: Tanya Wallace and Whitney Williams, West Prince District; Monique Bernard and Derwin Clow, Summerside; Andrew MacInnis and Faye Murphy, Charlottetown; Alan Glover and Kevin Walker, Montague; and Jason Duncan and Jacinta MacDonald, Souris.

Andrew MacKenzie of the Millview-Vernon 4-H Club received the $1000 Petro-Canada 4-H Youth Leadership Award Scholarship. Andrew was selected based on his involvement in community activities and his active role in the 4-H program.

One Island Junior Farmer member, Ann MacPhail, was selected to attend the annual meeting of the Ontario Junior Farmers' Association. A hosting program was arranged for Ann on a farm of an Ontario Junior Farmer after which she attended the three-day conference and annual meeting.

Reuben Gunn of the Fort Augustus 4-H Club and Shelley MacDonald of the Tri Com and Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Clubs participated in the Western Leaders' Forum which was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 9-13. The theme of this forum was "4-H - Reaching For 100".

The ninth annual National 4-H Leaders' Conference was held in Toronto at the time of the Royal Winter Fair. The Leaders' Conference was held in conjunction with the National Members' Conference. The theme of this year's conference was "4-H Volunteers - Salute to Excellence".

Five leaders from Prince Edward Island attended the Conference: Louise Andrews, Wheatley River 4-H Club; Sandra Jamieson, Alberry Plains; Brenda Montgomery, French River; Winnie Murphy St. Ann's; and Fran Stewart, East End Circle.

The 1988 Senior 4-H Members' Conference was held in West Royalty October 27 and 28. The focus of this conference was on careers. Fifty-five senior 4-H members were involved in career panels, sessions on career choices, writing resumes, and interviews.

This year's Provincial 4-H camp was held at Camp Abegweit in Augustine Cove from June 28 - July 2. The theme of the 1988 4-H summer camp was "4-H Looks Good On You". Eighty Junior and Intermediate 4-H members participated in this camping program.

Prince Edward Island 4-H Council

The 4-H Council is now in its fifteenth year. The officers for 1988 were as follows: Eric Phillips, President; Anthony Cannon, Vice-President; Carol MacLeod, Past-President; and Gwyneth Jones, Secretary-Treasurer.

Prince Edward Island 4-H Leaders' Conference and Annual Meeting

The Leaders' Conference and Annual Meeting were held in February in Charlottetown and attracted 50 4-H leaders.

The Provincial Annual Awards Banquet saw Sturgeon Bay 4-H Club receive the trophy for the "Most Improved Club of the Year". The Mermaid-Mt. Herbert 4-H Club received the J. T. Driscoll Memorial Award for the Club Community Project.

Perfection Foods sponsored a Milk Promotion Competition for invited competitors. The winner of the competition was the Honourable Betty Jean Brown, Minister of Education. The promotion competition was a sundae making event.

Recognition of the recipients for the Stewart Wright Memorial Scholarship was made by the family representative to Ronnie Stewart and Karen Thompson, both of the Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club.

The Farm Credit Corporation presented the prize money for the Farm Management Project Competition at the Awards Banquet to: Dianne Stewart of the Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club; Wade Loane, Brooklyn-Heatherdale; and Whitney Williams, Elmsdale.

The following leaders received certificates for 20, 10, and 5 years of 4-H leadership.

Twenty Year Certificates	4-H Club
Mabel Carmichael	Albany
Ten Year Certificates	
Elizabeth Arbing	Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club
George Coade	Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club
Laura Davis	Sturgeon Bay
Ralph Dickieson	Cavendish
Wendell Jenkins	Millview-Vernon River
Roma Larsen	Albany
Grace MacLaurin	Lot 16
May Trainor	Fort Augustus
Annie Noonan	Albany
Doris Wood	Bayview-Orwell
Five Year Certificates	
Dianne Adams	High Hopes
Walter Andrews	Wheatley River
Jean Daly	Summerville
Patsy Dingwell	Morell
Fred Dollar	Winsloe-Brackley
Charlene Duffy	Fort Augustus
Audrey Farquharson	Mermaid-Mt. Herbert
Reuben Gunn	Fort Augustus
Jim Lund	Mermaid-Mt. Herbert
Eliza MacEwen	Cloverleaf
Phyllis McCabe	Belfast
Mary Murphy	St. Ann's
Jocelyn Oraniuk	Fort Augustus
Lorne Stevenson	Winsloe-Brackley
Noreen Stevenson	Winsloe-Brackley
Hilda Trainor	Mermaid-Mt. Herbert
Barbara Wood	Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club
Joyce Wood	Mermaid-Mt. Herbert
Lorraine VanDyke	Summerville

The Friend of 4-H Award for 1988 was presented to Glen Swallow, representing Brookville Lime.

The P.E.I. 4-H Council Annual Meeting was held in the afternoon of October 13, following the Awards Banquet.

Carol MacLeod, President, chaired the approval of the Home Economics, Agriculture, Finance and Rural Youth Fair Commitee Reports by the Board of Directors. Annual reports were made by 4-H District Council Presidents.

Program and Travel Committee

Carol MacLeod, chairperson of the Program and Travel Committee, co-ordinated its activities. The Provincial Communications Competitions were held in May and the Provincial Champions were as follows:

Name	Section	Club
Tammy Stevenson	Jr. Public Speaking	Winsloe-Brackley
Monique Bernard	Int. Public Speaking	Evangline
Jacinta MacDonald	Sr. Public Speaking	Morell
Justin MacLeod	Single Demonstration	Uigg-Kinross
Heidi & Sally Wood	Double Demonstration	Mermaid-Mt. Herbert

Jacinta MacDonald, Morell 4-H Club, received the Marlene MacDonald Memorial Trophy and was named Overall Public Speaker. The trophy for the Most Original Speech was awarded to Lisa Barwise of the Duvar 4-H Club. In the Demonstration Category, the Royal Bank of Canada silver trays were awarded to Justin MacLeod in the Single Demonstrations and Sally and Heidi Wood in the Double Demonstration Category.

The Program and Travel Committee is responsible for the Annual $1000 Provincial Council Scholarship. It is awarded in June to a deserving 4-H member entering a post-secondary institution.

This year, the scholarship was awarded to Elizabeth Younker of the Winsloe-Brackley 4-H Club.

Family Life Home Economics Project Committee

Louise Andrews, Charlottetown District, was the chairman of the Home Economics Project Committee.

The Home Economics Committee assists in determining the direction, need and development of 4-H Home Economics Projects and related activities.

Exhibitions

The 4-H Exhibition Book was issued to each 4-H family. This booklet is re-vamped each year so that potential problem situations can be avoided in 4-H classes at exhibitions across the province. A new clerking book was prepared which gives added information needed by non 4-H'ers who may clerk 4-H classes at some fairs.

Both the Clerking Book and the Exhibition Book were designed so that 4-H classes and judging would be as standardized as possible across the province.

A special Heritage Bake-off class for 4-H'ers was held at the Provincial Exhibition to mark their celebration of 100 years. There was a team effort to produce and display strawberry jam and potato bannock. This Heritage Bake-Off was very well received and caused a little added interest at the Fair.

At the Rural Youth Fair, a display resulted from the team effort of the Milk Marketing Board and the 4-H Home Economics Committee and the milk promotion also helped promote the Dairy Daze 4-H Foods Project. Milk sport totes and other milk promotional materials were drawn for.

For 1988-89, the new project "Fashionably You" will be piloted as it is recommended that new projects be piloted for one year before being printed in volume. The "Simple Sportswear" Project has been revised by means of an insert to make it a two year project. The book is to be completely revised before reprinting.

To provide learning and sharing opportunities for leaders, a 4-H Home Economics Project Leaders' Workshop for the Souris and Montague areas was held with 16 leaders in attendance. Two other sessions were planned but had to be postponed.

4-H leaders from across the province had the opportunity to take part in a Sewing Seminar held in Montague. This session was organized by a local business person and open to the general public but 4-H leaders could attend at a reduced cost. Only four leaders took advantage of this opportunity. Also, one leader was able to attend a 4-H Conference on home sewing in Truro.

4-H Agricultural Projects Committee

The Agricultural Committee assists in determining the direction, need and development of 4-H Agricultural projects and activities.

Market Steer Shows

Jill Stewart from the North River 4-H Club exhibited the Champion 4-H Steer at the Easter Beef Show. The steer sold for $2.90/pound. Melanie Warren of the Elmsdale 4-H Club exhibited the Champion 4-H Steer in the Prince County Spring Beef Show. She received a price of $2.13/pound.

Beef and Dairy Conference

Sixty-one 4-H beef and dairy members attended a conference held February 26 and 27. Sessions included a skill-a-thon and information on artificial insemination, nutrition and livestock judging.

Livestock Workshops

A workshop for rabbit members and one for poultry members was held during the evening of July 25. Resource people advised participants on grooming, general health care and showmanship for their respective project animals. Video tapes were made of both these sessions and are now available from the Provincial 4-H Office.

Poultry Project

Fourteen 4-H'ers enrolled in a revised Poultry Project. Ralston Purina P.E.I. dealers offered encouragement for the members through their donation of 2 bags of chick feed to each 4-H'er enrolled in the project. The Achievement Day for this project was held at the Rural Youth Fair.

Potato Project

The P.E.I. Elite Potato Seed Farm donated five pounds each of three different potato varieties to the 4-H'ers enrolled in the project. Over 30 4-H'ers exhibited their potato varieties at the Rural Youth Fair. This was up from the numbers enrolled in the project the previous year. The Achievement Day for these members took place at the Fair.

Gardening Project

Again this year, the Gardening Project met with successful completion. Over 30 4-H'ers exhibited their vegetables at the Rural Youth Fair. The project was structured so that a Provincial Gardening Achievement Day was held at the Rural Youth Fair. Vesey's Seeds donated all the seeds for the project.

Exhibition Book

The 4-H staff produced the annual Exhibition Book which was sent to all 4-H families. It outlined the rules and regulations for nine Island exhibitions and the Maritime Winter Fair.

Exhibitions

Provincial 4-H Staff directly ran 4-H classes at the Provincial Exhibition and the Rural Youth Fair. Provincial Staff also assisted District Agricultural Staff running the Summerside Lobster Carnival, Crapaud Exhibition, Alberton Exhibition, Kensington Harvest Festival and the Dundas Plowing Match. The Provincial Agrologist chaired the 4-H show at the Maritime Winter Fair. The 4-H staff kept a complete list of 4-H project animals' eartag or tattoo numbers for use at the exhibitions and Rural Youth Fair.

Drop-In Centre

The 4-H Drop-In Centre was opened for seven days during the Provincial Exhibition. 4-H entries and materials were displayed and refreshments were sold in the centre.

'88 Special

Again this year, a special showmanship training class for 9 and 10 year old beef and dairy members was held at the Provincial Exhibition. Senior 4-H Livestock members and livestock leaders were each assigned to work with two 4-H members. Instruction covered the areas of fitting and grooming, sportsmanship and showmanship. During the 30 minute session with member and calf, emphasis was placed on learning rather than competition. Approximately 20 4-H members participated.

Rural Youth Fair

The 38th Annual Rural Youth Fair was held August 26 and 27 at the Provincial Exhibition Grounds. The 4-H staff and volunteers aimed to provide more varied activities and to more fully promote the 4-H organization.

An action-packed program had over 800 participants in such events as a Talent Show, the Holstein Futurity, a Club Display Competition, a Square Dance, a Judging Game and displays as well as the regular livestock classes. Two new events this year were a Woodsman Competition and an expanded horse show.

United States National 4-H Dairy Conference

The Stewart Wright Memorial Scholarship, the Prince Edward Island 4-H Council, the Prince Edward Island Holstein Breeders and the Prince Edward Island Milk Producers' Association collaborated to send two 4-H

members and a chaperone to the United States Dairy Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The selected delegates were Ronnie Stewart and Karen Thompson, both from the Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club.

4-H Day at the Maritime Winter Fair

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia again sent delegates to compete in classes at the Maritime Winter Fair, Island 4-H members placed consistently high in both showmanship and conformation classes.

Agribition

A four member Maritime 4-H Judging Team was selected at the Maritime Winter Fair. This team participated in an International Livestock Judging Seminar held at the Agribition in Regina.

The Maritime Winter Fair's Youth Activities Grant provided the airfare funding for the competition. Susan Dixon, North River 4-H Club, was the Prince Edward Island member of the Maritime Team.

Contact Hays Classic at the Royal Winter Fair

Six Island 4-H'ers participated in the Scotiabank Hays Classic held during the Royal Winter Fair. Provincial 4-H Office Staff organized the selection and aided with the distribution of information to the participants. Island competitors fared well in the competition. Steven Boswall exhibited the animal chosen as the Reserve Champion Ayrshire. John Wood placed third in the Ayrshire Class and Susan Dickieson placed sixth in the Junior II Holstein Class. This Island group won the Barn Display Award for their zone.

The P.E.I. representatives were: Steven Boswall, Ronnie Stewart, and John Wood of Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club; Susan Dickieson and David Dickieson of Cavendish 4-H Club; and Guy Stevenson of Winsloe-Brackley 4-H Club.

Anne Boswall accompanied the group as their chaperone.

National Beef Heifer Show

The Royal Winter Fair sponsored the first annual National 4-H Beef Heifer Show on November 13 and 14. Six Island 4-H'ers participated. The selection and organization for the participants was provided by the Provincial 4-H Office Staff. The Island competitors placed extremely well at the Royal - Kurt Duncan was selected the Junior Beef Showman, Karrie Duncan exhibited the Champion Crossbred animal and the Island group won the overall barn display award.

The P.E.I. representatives were: Susan Dixon, Jody Sanderson, Tracey Stewart, and Kurt and Karrie Duncan of North River 4-H Club; and Jane MacLaurin of Lot 16 4-H Club.

New and Revised Projects

New and revised projects were produced by the Agriculture and Home Economics Committees and the 4-H Staff.

The revised projects are: Dairy III, Market Steer, Poultry, and Simple Sportswear.

The new projects produced in 1988 are: Rabbit III, 4-H Marketing Pilot, Fox, Computer, and Fashionably You.

Other new and revised books and pamphlets are: Leaders' Information Manual, Exhibition Book, Rural Youth Fair Book, Achievement Day Kits, and A.V. Booklet.

The P.E.I. 4-H Council priorized the projects to facilitate the updating, revising or development of the project books.

Public Relations

Media Coverage

There were 52 4-H Radio Programs produced as a regular Saturday show. These shows are aired on the four local radio stations. The Provincial 4-H Agrologist and the Provincial 4-H Co-ordinator prepared and recorded approximately two each per month of these programs. The district councils and offices contribute to the 4-H Radio Programs with one program a month. Periodically, radio interviews were recorded for Farm Report to advertise special upcoming events.

The monthly newsletter "Leaders' Line" was mailed to all 4-H leaders and district 4-H staff from the Provincial 4-H Office. The various 4-H staff members prepared articles for this publication as required.

The Provincial 4-H Staff also contributed articles to the Department of Agriculture's monthly publication "CornerPost"; plus articles and press releases to the local media about various provincial 4-H activities.

Other

This heading contains the many diverse responsibilities and activities that the 4-H staff assume or become involved with during the year.

Atlantic 4-H Committee

The Atlantic 4-H Committee is a sub-committee of the Atlantic Provinces Agricultural Services Co-ordinating Committee. Prince Edward Island had three people involved with this committee for the 1987-88 year -- Anthony Cannon representing the P.E.I. 4-H Council, and Sandra MacKinnon and Gwyneth Jones representing the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture.

The Atlantic 4-H Committee was responsible for four programs this year; the Atlantic 4-H Conference, 4-H Day at the Maritime Winter Fair, the 1988 International 4-H Judging Seminar and the Atlantic 4-H Ambassadors' Conference.

The Atlantic 4-H Conference was held in Charlottetown, and the Ambassadors' Conference was held in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Canadian 4-H Council

The Canadian 4-H Council is a non-profit organization whose primary responsibilities include administering a national variety of services to 4-H and the provincial agencies that administer 4-H across Canada, and facilitating the exchange of information and ideas about 4-H programs and activities.

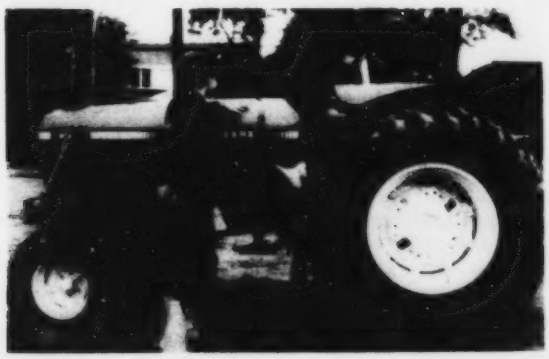
Incorporated in 1931, the Council is maintained through the interest and financial support of the 10 provincial 4-H administrative agencies, Agriculture Canada and a broad representation of business and non-government organizations.

Representing the Department on this Council is the Provincial 4-H Co-ordinator. She is on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Operations Committee and the Nominations Committee.

Assistance With District 4-H Programs

District events which the Provincial 4-H Office staff helped organize and/or attended were as follows

- district 4-H Council Annual Meetings
- district project workshops
- various 4-H District Council Meetings
- district leaders' banquets
- approximately 20 4-H Achievement Days
- district level public speaking and demonstration nights
- 4-H programs at Summerside Lobster Carnival, Crapaud Exhibition, Kensington Harvest Festival, Alberton Exhibition, Souris Exhibition, Dundas Plowing Match
- Souris Beef & Dairy Clinic



Staff Training

In 1988, the 4-H staff provided two one-day information sessions for District Agricultural and Home Economics Staff. These workshops allowed for an updating and sharing of ideas between district staff and provincial staff.

These sessions were timed to occur just prior to Achievement Days and Re-organization so the district staff could pick up the Achievement Day Kits and Re-organizational Kits.

Also, three computer-related meetings were held with the District Office Staff and Provincial 4-H Office to discuss the updating of the 4-H Computer Program. A revised program is now in place and operational in the five district offices and the provincial office.

Easter Beef Show and Sale

The Provincial 4-H Staff assisted the committee on planning and organizing the evening banquet for this event.

Other activities attended as 4-H representatives were

- District 4-H Council Annual Meetings
- District 4-H Intermediate Conference
- District 4-H Workshops
- Federation of Agriculture - General Meeting
- Farm Centre - Board of Directors Meetings
- Provincial Exhibition Anniversary Committee
- Provincial Exhibition Planning Committee
- Easter Beef Show Committee
- Scotiabank Contact Hays Committee
- P.E.I. Holstein Association Annual Meeting

Summer Students

The 4-H program was fortunate to have two summer students in 1988. They were: Maryellen Campbell, Home Economics Summer Student, and Lloyd Dalziel, Agriculture Summer Student.

These summer students increase the work capacity of the Provincial 4-H Office and are an asset to the 4-H Program.

Training Program

The Training Program is responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of learning opportunties to clients of the Department of Agriculture. Included in this function are supplying the five Resource Centres with learning materials and equipment, the administration of a number of training policies, and the funding and co-ordination of such training events as seminars, conferences, tours, workshops, demonstrations, etc..

Financial Assistance Program

This policy is designed to encourage and assist Islanders obtain vocational and technical training in agriculture thereby ensuring a continuing supply of trained people for the agricultural industry. Under this program, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College receives reimbursement for the costs of providing technical training to Island students. Those students who attend institutions other than NSAC may receive reimbursement of tuition plus the equivalent of a round-trip rail fare per academic year.

Islanders may also be assisted through the program in taking approved Correspondence Courses related to agricultural production and marketing.

Those who are enrolled in the Maritime Farm Certification Program and who are not eligible for assistance through Canada Employement and Immigration Commission (CEIC) may also obtain assistance through this program. Following are the numbers assisted by the program:

	1988	1987
NSAC students	22	26
Correspondence Course students	5	1
Maritime Farm Certificate Program	1	3
TOTAL	28	30

Farm Organization Assistance Program

The P.E.I. Fecderation of Agriculture, the National Farmers' Union, the P.E.I. Junior Farmers' Organization, and the Women in Support of Agriculture received funding for research and educational projects carried out in 1988.

The Federation of Agriculture received assistance on a number of educational and research projects, including: Brief to Transportation Hearings, Maritime Feed Grains Meetings, National Potato Agency Hearings, Standing Committee on Agriculture Hearings, Diesel and Gasoline Research, Public Utilities Commission Hearings, Free Trade Briefs, Government of Canada Taxation Hearings, Island Farm Legislation Research and Brief, ALFI Meetings, Provincial Sales Tax Review, Provincial Social Welfare Brief, Cereal Grains Producers Organization, and Vacant Farm Land Research.

The following National Farmers' Union projects received funding assistance under this policy: Education Officer Services, Participants to National Convention, Plant Breeders' Rights Conference, Horticultural Council Meeting, Grains Institute and Youth Seminar.

Several Junior Farmers' Organization projects received funding under this policy: Youth Conference, Regina, Royal Winter Fair Tour, Annual Conference, NSAC Tour and Computer Course.

Women in Support of Agriculture projects also received funding under this policy: November Fall Conference, Leadership Workshops, Urban Women Farm Tour, Annual Meeting, Maritime Conferences and Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Sask.

In addition to the above-mentioned assistance to farm and rural organizations, the Farm Safety Program was also funded by the Farm Organization Program.

Federal/Provincial Agricultural Employment Committee and Budget

The Agricultural Employment Committee is funded jointly by the Government of Canada (CEIC) and the Province of Prince Edward Island (PEIDA), and the budget is administered by the Training Co-ordinator. Major initiatives in 1988 were researching the wages and working conditions of farm labor on P.E.I., and researching the possibility of a farm relief worker program.

Farmcrew

A farmcrew is a group of four students available to work for farm families for up to five days at rock-picking, fencing, painting, brush-clearing, or other work for which a farmer would not normally hire labor.

The Prince Edward Island Government hired 12 students under Farmcrew as part of its Student Employment Creation Program for the summer months of 1988. The Agricultural Employment Services in Charlottetown and Summerside co-ordinated the program this year.

Resource Centres

The Training Co-ordinator and Secretary continued to staff the Farm Centre Resource Centre during 1988.

The Farm Centre Resource Centre continued to be used extensively. Films, slide sets, equipment and books were loaned each day to home economics and agriculture teachers, to departmental staff, farm organizations, and individuals. The Farm Safety Co-ordinator used the slide sets and films a great deal. Audio-visual equipment is being used mainly by departmental staff, members of commodity boards, and farm organizations. This section also continued to be responsible for the ordering of materials for all five Resource Centres. This included books, audio-visual materials and periodicals.

Regular Training Budget

Provincial and District Seminars

A number of commodity-specific district events were held for farmers, organized by District staff and others, and funded through the Sustainable Agriculture Section. Included were

- Barn Hay Dryer Workshop
- Hunter Breeder Workshop
- Ecological Agriculture Workshop
- Coyote Information Day
- Potato Grading Seminars
- Round Bale Silage Demonstration
- Farm Family Safety Day
- Forage Display
- Work Horse Demonstration
- Brussels Sprout Equipment Workshop
- Swine AI Workshop
- Fur Nutrition Seminar
- Pasture Short Course
- "Pig Champ" Seminar

Farm Computer Courses

There were two farm computer courses held during 1988, one in West Prince and one in Charlottetown.

Resource People For Training Programs

The Sustainable Agriculture Section funded the costs of out-of-province resource people for various Information Days and Conferences including:

- W.J.Ruiter, Toronto, Diesel Seminar, January
- J. Worts, England, Sheep Ultrasonics, January 14
- H. DeWorlde, Toronto, Swine Breeders' Mtg., Jan.
- W. Kunbum, Mass., Departmental Conference, March
- V. Beleski, Ontario, Departmental Conference
- R. Pocock, Quebec, Departmental Conference
- Cathy Aker, Ontario, Departmental Conference
- R. Swepson, Quebec, Departmental Conference
- J. Doering, Halifax, Departmental Conference
- G. Burris, N.S., Departmental Conference
- D. Douhan, Truro, Departmental Conference

Out of Province Conferences

The Sustainable Agriculture Section funded part of the cost of sending farmers to various conferences, courses and meetings out of the province in 1988. These persons were funded for educational purposes--either for individual training or for information to be brought back to the industry. These included: Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Sask.; Organic Crop Improvement Association Conference and Natural Foods Expo., Maryland; and Organic Agriculture Conference, Fredericton.

Out-of-Province Tours

Island farmers are assisted so that they could participate in out-of-province educational tours. During 1988 these included

- Sheep Breeders' Tour, Ontario
- Blueberry Tour, Maine
- Milling Wheat Tour, Nova Scotia
- Soil Conservation Tour, Grand Falls, N.B
- Blueberry Tour, Nova Scotia
- Vegetable Tour, Quebec
- Strawberry Tour, Nova Scotia

Other Tours

Other farmer tours within P.E.I. in 1988 included

- Strawberry Growers' Tour
- Orchard Tour
- Soil & Crop Provincial Tour
- District Soil & Crop Tours
- Soybean Tours
- Pasture Tours
- Cow-Calf Tours
- Forage Tours
- Cereal Tours
- Dairy Tours

ALFI Projects

During 1988, Training Program became responsible for administering three Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative projects under Human Resource Development. Under one, the District Resource Centres were equipped with VCR's, TV monitors and carts. A large number of videos was purchased and a few produced. Under another project, the District Resource Centres received a wide variety of additional AV equipment including screens, overhead projectors, slide projectors, portable speakers, etc. The third project was for funding training events on the efficient production, storage and utilization of forages, cereals and protein crops. All three of these projects have a direct relationship to the objectives of the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative.

Atlantic Livestock Initiative (ALFI)

This section contributes to the development of Agriculture in Prince Edward Island through

- the administration of the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative Program
- the co-ordination of the Beginning Farmers Interest Rebate Program
- the co-ordination of Productivity Enhancement projects with the department
- cost of production studies of the major agricultural commodities and the development of support materials, including computer programs for financial management training .

The major area of activity was the administration of the Canada/Prince Edward Island Subsidiary Agreement on Livestock Feed Development 1987-1991.

The Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative program has been developed to promote the growth of a viable agri-food industry in the province by

- increasing the quantity and quality of livestock and poultry feed produced in the province
- promoting development and production of new and/or improved feeds
- improving feed production, processing and utilization systems
- improving producers' technical and management skills related to feed production.

To attain the four goals or objectives, the ALFI Program has been broken down into four separate programs: 1) Technology Advancement; 2) Technology Evaluation, Adoption and Dissemination; 3) Storage, Handling and Market Support; and 4) Administration, Planning and Human Resource Development.

The following will explain each program and/or the sub-program which may be associated with them and also provide an example of a project which may be eligible under each.

Technology Advancement

The program will provide comprehensive variety evaluation, the development of feed crop management systems, and the identification and development of new cultivars for forages, feed grains and protein crops suitable to local conditions. The program will emphasize short term proposals keyed to the designated areas which are of an adaptive research nature. Economic assessment will be conducted for all projects. An example of an approved project under this section of the ALFI Program is the research of soybeans containing low levels of trypsin inhibitor.

Technology Evaluation, Adoption and Dissemination

This program is broken down into three separate sub-programs which are as follows:

1) Evaluation - Will encourage the adoption of proven technology which is new to the province through evaluation and demonstration of technologies that will improve productivity and quality of livestock feed crops including grains, forages and protein crops and improve feeding systems. An example of an eligible project is the mechanical weeder.

2) Adoption - Will assist the adoption of proven technology not yet in widespread use in the province through the assistance to introduce new equipment and management techniques to the farm. An example of an eligible project is funding for Improved Cereal Management (ICM).

3) Dissemination - Will assist in disseminating technology not in widespread use in Prince Edward Island. This program will increase the utilization of proven technology through assistance to introduce crops and cropping systems, equipment, and management techniques to the farm. Example of eligible projects under this sub-program are alfalfa production, and round balers and plastics for silage .

Handling, Storage and Market Organization

This program is divided into three separate sub-programs which are as follows:

Storage, Handling and Marketing

This sub-program will provide assistance to increase and improve centralized feed handling and storage facilities in the province. An example of a project under this section of the program is the P.E.I. Grain Elevators Corporation expansion of their storage facilities and capabilities.

On-Farm Storage and Handling Expansion

This sub-program will increase and improve storage and handling facilities for livestock feed crops in the province by encouraging producers to increase the quantity and improve the quality of on-farm facilities. Assistance will be paid on the purchase, installation, construction, and/or renovation of specific storage and feed handling facilities and equipment. Hay and grain storage structures are examples of eligible projects.

The funds for this sub-program are fully committed.

Market Organization Support

This program is designed for producer and public organizations to assist in developing and improving livestock feed market information, liaison, and co-ordination. An example of an eligible project under this sub-program is the purchase of a computer and software for the Island Hay and Straw Co-op.

Administration, Planning and Human Resource Development

This program is divided into three sub-programs as follows:

Administration

This sub-program is designed to provide the resources for staff, professional services, equipment and costs to administer the ALFI Program. Examples of eligible costs under this sub-program are: salaries, computer equipment, materials and supplies.

Livestock Feed Farm Planning Services

This sub-program will provide specialist farm planning assistance to current and prospective livestock feed producers, so that applicants may make informed decisions for long-term efficient and economic livestock feed production. An example of an eligible project under this sub-program is computer software designed to assist in the on-farm decision consultation process with the district offices.

Human Resource Development

This sub-program will provide for new and enhanced information, training materials and training programs on livestock feed production and marketing for primary producers and others involved in the livestock industry. An example of an eligible project under this sub-program is the P.E.I. Soil and Crop Improvement Association Agri-Trends Conference.

Project Activity

January 1, 1988 - December 1, 1988

	Approved	Rejected	Withdrawn/ Held
Technology Advancement	6	5	0
Technology Evaluation	103	20	14
Technology Adoption	163	18	11
Technology Dissemination	245	84	12
Group Storage & Handling	1	1	3
Farm Storage & Handling	366	52	159
Market Organization	4	1	0
Administration	1	0	0
Farm Planning	6	0	0
Human Resource Development	20	8	3
ALFI TOTALS	915	189	203

January 1, 1988 - December 1, 1988

	Proposed Cost Approved	Initiative Approved	Initiative Paid
Technology Advancement	2,168,024	2,090,860	216,905
Technology Evaluation	817,492	610,202	271,876
Technology Adoption	642,485	255,018	130,946
Technology Dissemination	1,295,710	322,922	134,999
Group Storage & Handling	62,000	62,000	0
On-Farm Storage & Handling	583,167	45,843	711,592
Market Organization	111,393	90,849	9,000
Administration	185,000	185,000	241,180
Farm Planning	36,383	36,383	34,665
Human Resource Develoment	750,844	724,331	197,633
ALFI TOTALS	6,652,498	4,423,408	1,948,796

The Beginning Farmers Interest Rebate Program

This program is taking no new applications and is in the last year of making payments. Six individuals received rebates in 1988. The rebate paid was $4,986 for an average rebate of $831.

The Productivity Enhancement Program

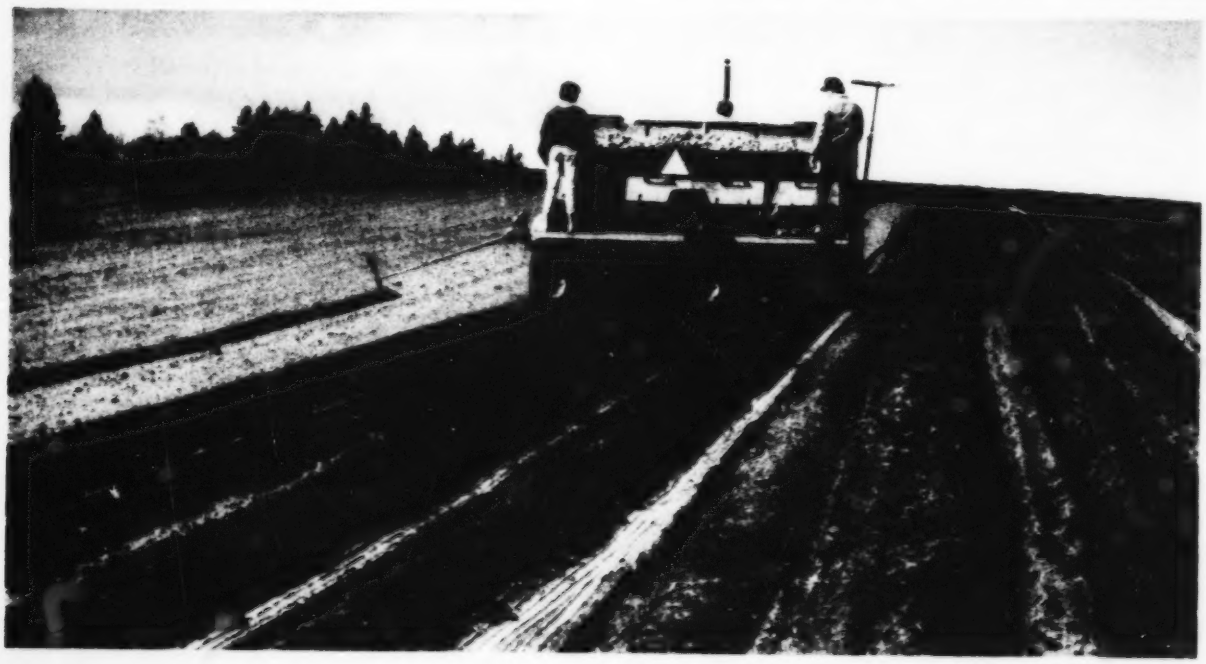
This program continues to be active with 12 new projects officially handled. Decisions to date were as follows: 9 approved, 2 rejected, and 1 withdrawn.

Total funding for these projects was $253,280 with the applicant contributing $121,252.

Cost of Production Data

Data was gathered for industrial and fluid milk, potatoes and swine. The following is the summary:

Commodity	Farmers Contacted	# used in Analysis
Potato	65	32
Swine	66	12
Dairy		
- Industrial	33	8
- Fluid	62	16



Production Services Branch

The reorganization which occurred in the Department of Agriculture early in 1988 has resulted in the more efficient use of resources and improved program delivery in the newly created Production Services Branch. The Branch is composed of five sections: Dairy, Livestock, Lab and Disinfection, Engineering and Crops Sections.

Through these sections the appropriate technical and advisory services are provided to the agricultural community on Prince Edward Island. In addition, a number of assistance programs and policies provide incentives for activities which support the objectives of the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture. While the productivity of Island farms continues to be important, efforts at reducing the costs of production and improving product quality received additional emphasis from the staff of the Production Services Branch in 1988.

Plant Division

Crops Section

Staff of the Crops Section continued to provide farm operators in Prince Edward Island with the latest information and services necessary to enhance production while maintaining or reducing input costs. The predominant activity of the Crops Section is delivery of technical information to individual farmers and commodity associations either directly or through the District Offices. Some highlights of 1988 activities include

- continued emphasis on both cereals and quality forage; in particular milling wheat, cereal management, alfalfa, silage and pasture management
- increased interest and activity in diversification into alternate crops such as coloured beans, small fruits and vegetables
- increased interest in sustainable methods of production
- monitoring of projects developed in co-operation with Agriculture Canada's Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP), Technology Development and Crop Health Programs
- implementation of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy
- implementation of Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative (ALFI) programs, monitoring of on-farm projects and implementation of adaptive research
- initiation of a potato variety evaluation project
- issuing a weekly crop report during the growing season to the media and various news interviews conducted on general crop conditions

Forages

With adequate snow cover during most of the winter, there were no major reports of winterkilling in Island forage in the spring of 1988. Growing conditions in the central and eastern sections of the province promoted good forage growth. The harvest of the forage crop for silage or hay was considerably delayed in some parts of the province due to the frequency of rainfall.

The difficulty of making high-quality hay and achieving timely harvesting under these adverse conditions has lead many Island farmers to investigate silage systems for forage crops.

Requests for information on forages were in the categories of pasture, conserved forages (hay, silage) and soil improvement. With permanent pastures, requests were mainly for pasture species adapted for specific grazing and/or soil conditions. Annual pastures such as Italian Ryegrass and forage brassicas continue to increase as farmers request information on how to extend and improve the grazing season for their livestock. In conserved forages, inquiries definitely indicated an increased interest in harvesting at least part of the forage crop as grass silage. Farmers are looking toward various silage systems as a means of reducing weather dependence and achieving more timely harvesting; important if several cuts are planned per season. Forages also play an important part in soil building and conservation requests were handled on species to be used, methods of management and cost of seed.

Cereals

The 1988 crop season was somewhat different from average which resulted in slightly lower cereal yields than the previous two years. Snow fell in the fall of 1987 prior to freezing, consequently, frost damage was minimal resulting in good survival of winter cereal crops.

Spring planting began May 4, but periodic wet weather continued to extend the planting season with many of the crops being planted later than optimum recommended dates. Excess moisture leached nitrogen, resulting in many fields being short of nitrogen to develop full yield potential. Many later-sown cereal grains actually yielded better than the earlier-sown fields this season. Wet weather throughout the

summer enhanced the development of disease on cereal grain crops, which resulted in lower yields and lower quality cereal grains. Cereal grain protein levels were very low this year compared to normal years.

Milling wheat acreage was approximately 4700 acres this season. A very small percentage of the crop made milling quality due to the wet weather and late harvest, which caused such problems as smudge, tombstone, poor colour and sprouting, which lowered the falling number below acceptable grade levels.

Extension Activities

The Crops Section provided up-to-date production information and technology to producers through winter information meetings, agricultural conferences, newsletters, demonstration plots through the Soil and Crop Improvement Association, production factsheets, as well as on-farm visits and office consultations.

Numerous problems occurred on cereal fields this season such as yellowing of some fields of grain in June due to the excess rain, leaching nitrogen. Low pH fields also caused problems. Diseases such as net blotch and scald in barley, mildew and septoria in wheat were identified.

P.E.I. Crop Statistics

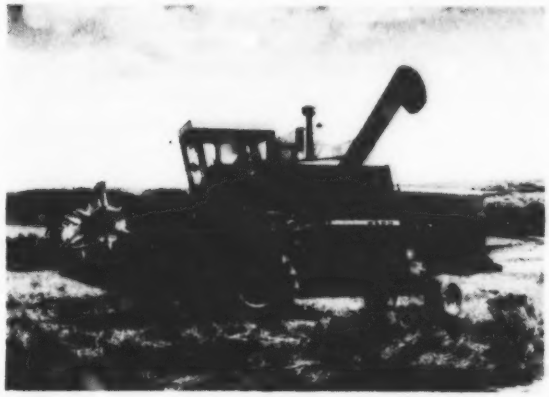
	Years		
	1988	**1987**	**1986**
	Acreages		
Winter Wheat	3,500	4,000	5,258
Spring Wheat (Feed)	6,800	6,500	6,545
Spring Wheat (Milling)	4,700*	2,500*	
Oats	24,000	24,000	24,460
Barley	67,000	66,000	65,770
Mixed Grain	57,000	62,000	66,326
Grain Corn	700*	700*	710
Soybeans	3,500*	2,500*	4,723
Forages:			
Tame Hay	139,000	136,000	126,400
Barley & Oats (Fodder)	5,000		
Corn (Fodder)	3,000*	3,350	3,506

* Estimated acreage figures. The balance of information is from Statistics Canada.

Activities with Producer Groups in Cereal and Forages

The Crops Section works closely with the P.E.I. Soil and Crop Improvement Association (SCIA). Demonstration projects on members' farms took place in the five agricultural districts.

Testing of cereal, forage and protein crops using the newest varieties available in combination with new management approaches constituted a major part of the association's activities across the province.



Projects

The ALFI-funded Crop Potential Project was conducted in the five agricultural districts with the following objectives

- to demonstrate the benefits of current and new varities of protein and cereal crops which are on or about to be put on the recommended list
- to provide Island farmers a forum for yield comparison and thus stimulate interest in improved management approaches
- to demonstrate management regimes which will provide maximum economic yield of these varieties

This project was conducted in the five agricultural districts on the farms of Trevor Webb in O'Leary, Ian MacMurdo in Kensington, Ron Toombs in North Rustico, Colin MacLeod in Bridgetown and Billy Malone in Souris. The results of these trials are being tabulated and will be available for winter mettings in 1989.

A Crop Scouting and Advisory Service Project was conducted, which assisted producers participating in high-tech cereal management on their own farms. The project identified diseases and growth stages in their cereal crop and recommended inputs for maximum economic yield. This project was funded by the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative Program. The co-operators for this project in 1988 were those producers participating in the $40 per acre Intensive Cereal Management (ICM) grain program funded by ALFI and conducted through the five district agricultural offices.

Forty-two farmers participated; there were a total of 10 feed wheat fields, 25 barley fields, 3 hulless oat fields and 29 milling wheat fields in the project.

Most participants in the project experienced an increased yield using ICM techniques. Those who had very little yield difference missed the critical nitrogen application of 20 zadoks growth stage 14. All producers appreciated the identification and recommendation service as they were unfamiliar with the system of cereal production.

The Alfalfa Management Project funded by Agriculture Canada Productivity Enhancement Program continued. This three-year project is evaluating the productivity and economics of a two-cut versus three-cut management system. The establishment of the alfalfa crop by underseeding with cereals and by direct seeding is being evaluated. Results to date indicate that direct seeding is preferable and that three cuts can only be advantageous in a silage system and under a high level of crop management.

In 1988 the Canadian Forage Council (CFC) was formed. Seven meetings were held throughout the Island to generate interest and publicity. The purpose of the CFC is to improve the growth and development of the Canadian forage industry by bringing together forage researchers, extension workers, farmers and related industry into one council. This council will serve to highlight the role that forages have in producing meat, milk and fibre plus their important role in sustaining soil and preventing erosion of our soils. P.E.I., through the Provincial Soil and Crop Improvement Association, has taken an active role in the CFC and through the SCIA has set up a Provincial Chapter to represent P.E.I.'s forage interest on the National Council. The forage specialist and farmer representatives attended two national meetings.

A major two-day Agricultural Conference was held in early March at the Rodd Inn. It was jointly sponsored by the P.E.I. Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the P.E.I Department of Agriculture. This event was attended by over 450 Island farmers and featured presentations on cereals, forages, vegetables, strawberry production, soil fertility potatoes with speakers from Quebec, Ontario, Pennsylvania, California.

A Farmers Tour was conducted in early August around the central portion of the province to view cereal, forage and protein crop projects as well as to visit innovative farming operations along the tour route. The sites visited on tour were

- Upton Farm, West Royalty, Ag. Canada Research Facility
- Roy and Kevin Jewell, Cornwall; direct vs underseeded alfalfa
- Island Breweries, Milton; alternative uses for cereal crops
- James Carruthers, Hamilton; manure composting and silage system
- Lea Schurman, Spring Valley - hog feeding system
- Ian MacMurdo, Kelvin Grove; SCIA research and demonstration plots
- David Mol, Highfield; soybeans
- Chris Linzel, Brackley; lupins
- Ken and Clair MacLellan, Indian River; intensive cereal management
- Allan and John Robinson, Albany; milling wheat

Yields and quality competitions were held for hay, silage, cereal grains, protein crops, and potatoes. The SCIA had a display of the winning hay entries at the Provincial Exhibition in Charlottetown.

The Department of Agriculture is represented on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA). The 1988 annual meeting was held in Charlottetown, July 6-9 and was attended by over 465 delegates from across Canada. The provincial representatives on CSGA as well as seed growers and other department staff organized and conducted this national event.

Soybeans

Soybean acreage was approximately 3500 acres which is up a little from 1987.

Periodic wet weather continued during June, delaying soybean planting and making it difficult to apply pre-emergent herbicides.

Soybean yields, however, were good across the province this season. Eastern P.E.I. had a very tall dense stand of beans this season due to the wet weather promoting vigorous vegetative growth, which yielded 40-60 bushels per acre.

All soybean growers and many other crop producers benefited from the on-farm consulting services of George Jones who was hired under an ALFI Project to do soybean extension. The project was initiated by the P.E.I. Bean Growers Co-operative but was administered by the Crops Section.

Corn

The corn heat units on P.E.I. were on par with 1987. At Charlottetown, there were 2600 corn heats units to September 29th, and the 30-year average is 2618. Again, there was a variation of 200-300 heat units in different areas within the province. The hours of bright sunshine were lower than normal at 935 while last year, they were 1205 to September 29. The 30-year average is 1053.

Silage yields and quality were good under the "average" weather conditions of 1988. The high moisture grain corn crop yielded 60-80 bushels per acre. The crop was late reaching physiological maturity this season. This, in combination with the wet weather left higher moisture levels in the grain at harvest.

Lupins

Approximately 250 acres of Sweet White Lupins were grown across P.E.I. this season. Vegetative growth and pod fill looked good all season; however, due to poor fall weather conditions the crop was harvested late in the season at very high moisture levels. The Crops Section collected information from various lupin fields which is being used to offer production tips for this crop.

ALFI Projects

A number of projects related to cereals, forages and soybeans was administered by the Crops Section and funded under ALFI.

Adaptive Research Project

This project was initiated in 1988 to evaluate cereal forage and soybean varieties at three sites on P.E.I. A Project Director was hired, office and laboratory space was set up in Crapaud and three sites were selected across the Island for 1989 plotwork. Laboratory and field equipment is being purchased and experiment plans for 1989 are under preparation. The project provided technical assistance to Agriculture Canada's cereal program for cereal variety management trials and soybean variety trials. The trials will become a part of the province's adaptive research project in 1989.

Technology Evaluation Technician Project

A technician was hired to collect and analyze data from on-farm technology evaluation projects. The technician visited 36 farms where ALFI Technology Evaluation projects were being carried out. Data was collected on finger weeder use in cereals, silage additives, hay preservatives and dessicants and manure composting. Demonstrations and tours were organized for many of these projects.

Microwave Dry Matter of Forages

The forage specialist obtained a truck-mounted microwave oven for instant in-field testing of forage dry matter. One hundred and twenty samples were processed. Thirty samples were taken by the soil and feed lab for calibration purposes. The oven was taken to five farms and demonstrated on the Provincial Soil and Crop Tour. It has proved to be as accurate as any commercial moisture tester which means that any farm family possessing a microwave could use it to determine forage dry matter. The only additional requirement is a small set of scales such as postage scales.

Potatoes

Potato Variety Evaluation

Two seed sources of Russet Burbank were compared at two levels of nitrogen fertility as part of a new initiative program to assist in the evaluation of promising potato cultivars and the establishment of "management profiles" for these varieties.

This trial was developed to try to distinguish any differences that might be present between virus free (derived from meristem tissue culture) and non-virus free (maintained through clonal selection) seed stocks of this particular variety.

Integrated Pest Management

Seven farms were involved in a pilot project to monitor Colorado Potato Beetle, Potato Flea Beetle, three species of aphids and seven diseases. Scouts monitored 13 fields twice a week from July until the plants were topkilled, and reported results to the producers. The staff involved have developed materials for extension, education and program publicity.

Aphid Alert

Aphids transmit viruses which can make potato seed unsuitable for sale. These viruses can also cause necrosis to tablestock and processing potato tubers rendering them unsaleable to consumers or processors.

The "Aphid Alert" program was conducted between mid-July and mid- September. Island potato producers were provided with weekly information on three species of aphids (Greenpeach, Buckthorn and Potato) which have the potential of transmitting viruses into potato fields. Forty sites strategically located across the Island were monitored twice weekly for the flights of these pests. Besides monitoring aphids, this program also provided information on the Potato Flea Beetle, the Tarnished Plant Bug, and the Six-spotted Leaf Hopper.

Potato Field Inspection

The P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, in support of the Plant Disease Eradication Act, carries out field inspections on potato fields not applying for or not qualifying for seed inspection under the Canada Seeds Act.

From July 19 to the present, in excess of 150 calls were made on members of the potato industry regarding tablestock inspection. The majority of these calls were made to farming operations where tablestock had been grown in previous years as well as to some other growers, who were ineligible for Federal Seed Inspection for various reasons. Also, a few growers called in to request inspection. Potato crops were inspected on 41 farms compared with 43 last year, and total of 301.7 ha were inspected - down slightly from the 405.7 ha involved in 1987.

Of the 41 operations checked, 11 were found to have planted a total of 53.3 ha with tablestock in defiance of the provisions of the Plant Disease Eradication Act. The varieties by hectare involved were Shepody 34.4 ha, Russet Burbank 9.0 ha, Superior 6.0 ha, Purple Chief 1.7 ha, Green Mountain 0.9 ha, Fundy 0.4 ha, Red Pontiac 0.3 ha, McIntyre 0.2 ha, and Norkotah Russet, Irish Cobbler, Sebago and Early Rose with 0.1 ha, each. With the possible exception of Norkotah Russet and Early Rose, there is no reason why tablestock should be used for seed as there were ample supplies of certified seed available for planting. Following harvest, several fields have been sampled and tested for the presence of disease.

As in the past, excellent co-operation was received from staff members of the Federal Seed Potato Inspection Department as well as the Elite Seed Farm, the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Commission and others in the potato industry.

Strawberries

Yields on a per acre basis were up from the previous year to 8500 kg/ha (7500 lb./acre). Higher yields were attributed to favourable overwintering conditions in the previous winter, moderate insect and disease pressure and favorable weather conditions (warm temperatures combined with adequate rainfall) during the growing season. These same weather conditions promoted a rapid ripening of the crop resulting in many of the berries remaining unpicked.

There were a total of 80 ha (200 acres) of commercial growers (with greater than 5 acres) fruiting strawberries in 1988. A survey of new plantings indicates a potential increase in fruiting acres in 1989 of 5 percent. Total commercial production was 680,000 kg (1,500,000 lb.).

The Crops Section provides growers with the services of a Horticultural Specialist to provide production information to growers by on-farm and office consultations, a strawberry newsletter, production factsheets, farm tours and workshops on various aspects of strawberry production, such as insect, weed and disease identification.

The Crops Section also provided a strawberry crop scouting service under the Integrated Pest Management Program. This program, carried out by the crop scout under the leadership of the Horticultural Specialist, provided growers with a disease and pest monitoring service. Fields entered in the program were regularly scouted between June 1 and September 1. A total of 75 acres on 10 farms was entered in the program.

A provincial certification program for strawberry nursery stock was implemented in June of this year. The objective of the program is to provide locally-grown disease-free nursery stock for P.E.I. growers and to assist nursery growers in the export of strawberry plants.

Four growers with approximately 35 acres applied for certification. Under this program, four million plants were dug in October and November and exported to United States, Argentina, Spain and Iraq.

Blueberries

Favourable overwintering conditions, adequate precipitation and heat combined to produce a better than average crop. The total crop harvested was 642,000 kg (1,413,000 lb.). The majority of the crop was shipped to processing facilities in Maine and Nova Scotia. Approximately 10,000 lb. were shipped to Vermont as "organic" product.

The Crops Section provides growers with the services of a Horticultural Specialist to provide production information to growers by on-farm and office consultation, a blueberry newsletter, production factsheets, insect, disease and weed identification and interpretation of soil and leaf analysis. A field tour and workshop on insect pests and sprayer calibration were offered to growers in August. In addition, P.E.I. growers were provided with the opportunity to attend the Nova Scotia field tour in August.

Other Fruit Crops

Crops Section Staff are involved in a number of activities on a wide range of minor fruit crops including raspberries, cultivated cranberries, apples, pears, plums, currants and grapes.

Activities include providing production information through on-farm and office consultation, factsheets, orchard tours, and workshops.

Apiculture

Reasonable weather conditions produced an average honey crop in 1988. The average yield per colony was 41 kg (90 lb.) compared with a five-year average (1982-1986) of 42 kg/colony. The number of apiaries was 82, the same number as recorded in 1987. The total number of colonies was 721, up from 682 last year.

Production information is provided to the beekeeping industry through the Horticultural Specialist by office consultations, on-farm inspections by the Apiary Inspector, a beekeepers newsletter, production factsheets and a series of introductory workshops.

In addition, an Apiary Inspection Program is carried out by the Apiary Inspector. In 1988, 30 apiaries, 287 colonies and 7 equipment inspections were carried out under the program. The inspector also conducted an early spring inspection of selected apiaries for varroa mite. This program is part of a National Varroa Mite survey. The Apiary Inspection Program is administered by the P.E.I. Beekeepers Marketing Co-operative by a grant from the Department of Agriculture.

Greenhouse

The most significant growth in the Island's greenhouse industry has been in the production of tomatoes using hydroponic systems under controlled environment. In 1988, 385,000 lb. of tomatoes were produced for a total value of $556,000.

The Horticultural Specialist provided production information through office and on-site consultations, production factsheets, insect and disease identification and attendance at annual meetings.

Vegetables

It was in general, a good growing season on P.E.I. with adequate moisture and heat throughout the season. However, this also meant good conditions for some diseases. Brussels sprout producers report increased yields this year. There were some black rot problems on the variety "Roger" and some tip burn problems which were not related to "Ca" deficiency. Three growers had diamond back moth pheromone traps and were pleased at being able to monitor this pest in their own crop. Cauliflower fields were average with good head size but with some cases of head rot and Botrytis. The broccoli crop was good with few problems encountered except late in the season when some head rot was reported. The cabbage crop was of excellent yield and quality.

There was good yield and sizing in carrots with no widespread problems. An isolated case of root knot nematode occurred in Prince County causing heavy losses for one grower. Rutabaga yields were good but marketability of the early crop was affected by cracking and subsequent rotting. The late crop was less affected but there is some concern that cracking may affect quality in storage. The small acreage of lettuce was hit by Botrytis grey mold during the wettest periods of the summer. The experimental onion acreage proved disappointing to most of the growers. Weed competition and herbicide damage contributed to this.

In 1988, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program was continued in vegetables consisting of two aspects; a crop scouting service, and threshold development work on cole crop leaf-eating insects. The crop scouting program was administered by the P.E.I. Horticulture Association and covered approximately 600 acres on 40 farms. Crops were scouted regularly as follows: carrots, for rust fly and leafhoppers; cole crops for looper, diamondback moth, imported cabbage worm and aphids; and rutabagas for cabbage root maggot. The threshold development work was carried out by the Department in collaboration with Agriculture Canada.

The extension activities in vegetables included a vegetable newsletter, organization of a vegetable producers tour to Quebec, and technical advice to the P.E.I. Horticultural Association for three Agriculture Canada funded projects, which included a Vegetable Production Demonstration, a Crop Disease Management and, a Crop Cultivar Evaluation.

Prince Edward Island Vegetable Acreages

	1987	1988
Beans	15	15
Beets	5	5
Brussels Sprouts	120	N/A
Broccoli	70	70
Cabbage	170	230
Carrots	210	250
Cauliflower	125	20
Corn	60	60
Cucumbers	30	35
Lettuce	45	45
Onions	0	12
Parsnips	35	35
Rutabagas	525	525
Squash	20	17
Tomatoes	6	6

Tobacco

Tobacco yields were average in 1988 and, with the exception of the variety Delliot, the crop graded well. Sclerotinia is becoming an increasing problem in tobacco. The damp conditions this year caused widespread occurrence of this fungal disease.

Extension activities in tobacco included annual winter seminars held in co-operation with the P.E.I. Tobacco Commodity Marketing Board and Agriculture Canada and consisted of activities such as, Tobacco Competition, Annual Tobacco Field Day and organizing the Annual Tobacco Sales Day.

Consideration was also focused on continuing efforts to evaluate options open to tobacco producers wanting to diversify.

Activities considered on-going included in-field consultation on all facets of tobacco production, newsletters, as well as administrative and technical support to the association. Data from the tobacco tissue survey was collected and compiled:

Tobacco Production

	1986	1987	1988
No. of farms	72	58	52
No. of acres	3694.8	3444.8	2675.3
Total Pounds	5,692,000	7,646,500	5151,000
Yield/Acre (lbs.)	1540	2220	1925
Total Value ($)	10,430,477	14,274,280	9,868,934
Value/lb.	$1.832	$1.867	$1.910

Weed & Pest Management

During the year, the Pest Management Specialist provided support services to crop specialists, agriculture representatives and farmer clients in the area of pest management of weeds and insects. This service included: insect and weed identification; commodity farm calls; staff training seminars; farmer training seminars.

Some of the major insect problems encountered this year were: corn borer damage in potato crops, diamond back moth and cabbage worm in cole crops and cabbage maggot in rutabagas.

In the urban area, the European earwig was a major problem as was the strawberry root weevil - both insects were found infesting homes.

Special Projects

A study was carried out to evaluate the effects of chemical weed control in an alfalfa stand established in 1987. Pre-plant incorporated herbicides have proved to be effective for weed control when establishing alfalfa stands.

The five Tansy Ragwort Control demonstration trials, established in 1985 across P.E.I., were monitored for the last time this year to determine the amount of Tansy Ragwort regrowth in each treatment. Spring application of dicamba and 2-4D gave the most economical control.

A trial was conducted on the potato variety "Superior" to evaluate possible controls for nematodes. Results are being analyzed.

During the harvesting of a grain crop in 1987, a field contaminated with field mint was treated with Round-up, a non-selective systemic herbicide. An evaluation of the weed control treatment was carried out this spring and indicated that this treatment gave acceptable control.

Major publications made available this year include; 1988 Guide to Weed Control, 1988 P.E.I. Potato Pesticide Recommendations plus Fact Sheets on Carpenter Ants, Household Ants, Weevils in the Home and the European Earwig.

Agricultural Pesticide Inspection

Pesticides Control Program

Several license classifications were made available to those involved in the sale or commercial application of pesticides on P.E.I. The importance of upgrading the educational and licensing requirements continued to be a high priority. Programs and seminars/workshops for licensed vendors and aerial applicators were held this past season. Also, one-day pesticide safety information sessions were held in April at four P.E.I. locations. These sessions dealt with safe use and handling procedures, personal protective equipment, spraying equipment, pesticide poisoning, container disposal, and environmental concerns. Dealer facilities were inspected and observations were noted regarding their storage/display areas as they must comply with minimum standards in order to obtain a pesticide sales license.

Pesticide Applicators & Dealers Licensed

Class	Type	1987	1988
B	Aerial	6	5
C	Structural	7	6
E	Lawn Care/Non-crop land	13	18
F	Other	3	5
Dealer	Wholesale or Retail	46	40

Aerial Application

In accordance with the Act and Regulations, all aerial application requires a Use Permit and conditions are now part of the Regulations which deal specifically with aerial spraying.

Pesticides Advisory Committee

The Pesticide Control Act makes provision for a nine-member Advisory Committee, thus allowing for participation from farm and other user groups, as well as government departments. The committee must conduct a public hearing at least once a year to hear submissions from the public respecting any matter concerning pesticides and their use. The committee stresses the need for educational programs for those involved in the use of pesticides.

The Regulations of the Pesticide Control Act are under review. The sections concerning pesticide storage and aerial application are under study and subsequently recommendations will be made to the Minister of Agriculture. The protection of the environment, the respect for the property of others and the health and safety of people are some of the elements to be considered in the storage, handling and use of pesticides.

As a liaison group, the Committee has received input and presentation from Water Resources personnel, Conservation and Protection Services, staff from Environment Canada and others. Various provincial and federal Departments of Agriculture employees are also sources of information and attend the committee meetings when agenda items are pertinent to their area of discipline.

Other Programs

The Agricultural Chemical Inspector worked closely with Conservation and Protection Services of Environment Canada who were in the province during the past season monitoring various activities related to pesticide application drift study. A Pesticide Inventory Survey of over 3000 farms has been initiated. Questionnaires have been mailed out in order to ascertain products and quantities of unwanted pesticides in the Province.

This was the second year that the granular potato insecticide, aldicarb, could be used only under a Use Permit within the province. For the 1988 cropping season, growers had to apply and receive approval, after a prior field inspection, that aldicarb could be used on their potato acreage. The fields were re-inspected during the growing season to ensure these fields were in compliance with the six conditions of approval. These conditions for aldicarb use were a means by which use of the product could be monitored in the province. In doing so, the co-operation of pesticide dealers, commodity groups and related agencies and departments was received.

The Pesticide Information Centre, a toll-free information number (368-4849) was available from June to September. The Island public as well as the farming community were frequent users of this service during the spraying season, with a higher incidence of calls being reported in July and August. Fact sheets, news releases, and other news items of interest were circulated through local newspapers, radio and TV, farm and government publications and other forms of media in an effort to inform pesticide users, as well as the general public.

Lab and Disinfection Section

The Lab and Disinfection Services Section provides a number of support services to the agricultural industry on Prince Edward Island. Some services are utilized directly by farmers and related agricultural industry, while other services offer support to extension staff who in turn advise agriculture clients. The services offered include Soil, Feed, And Tissue Testing; Plant Pathology Diagnostic Services; Potato Disinfection Services and Cull Burial Program; and Retail Tablestock Inspection Services

Along with these services, a number of individuals in the Section are responsible for extension activities including Plant Pathology, Extension Agronomy (newly created position), Potato Production, and Bacterial Ring Rot Control and Prevention.

Soil, Feed and Plant Tissue Testing Service

Services of the Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory form an integral part of production management services provided to all farmers in the province. The Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Program provides the basis for fertilizer, limestone and land management programs in all crop areas. The Greenhouse Soil Testing Service provides similar information for greenhouse and bedding plant growers plus tobacco and vegetable growers who start transplant stock in greenhouses. The Feed Testing Program is an essential element of livestock feeding programs for all livestock species. In all cases, the lab services are delivered to farmers in concert with the extension programs of Specialist and District Office Staff.

During the crop year samples completed for farmers included: 5670 soils, 402 greenhouse soils, 4359 livestock feeds and 1028 plant tissue. In addition to this workload for primary clients, 2901 water samples were completed as a part of the ongoing co-operative agreement with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. In total, approximately 160,000 individual tests or analyses were carried out this year; up 45% over last year. Of the operational programs, soils samples remained relatively constant, whereas samples in the feed testing program were up 11%, tissue samples from farmers were up 22%, research plant tissues were up 600%, and water chemistry samples were up 47% over last year.

This year an Inductively Coupled Argon Plasma (ICAP) Spectrometer was added to our complement of laboratory equipment. This instrument has made the lab more versatile in the analysis of feed, tissue, water, soil and greenhouse soil. All of the above programs, formerly done by atomic absorption for elemental analysis, are now being carried out on the ICAP Spectrometer. As many as 20 elements may be

determined simultaneously which greatly reduces technician time as compared to previous procedures for analysis of certain samples. The ICAP also provides more elemental data particularly for the feed program and a faster turn-around time for tissue and water samples.

Late in the year the lab acquired a "Fat Extraction" apparatus for the fat analysis content in mink and fox feeds.

As part of the Lab's on-going quality control system the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) analytical check series was adopted. On a monthly basis, samples are tested and results are reviewed and compared to all labs entered in the program. The program is operated by Purdue University in Indiana, and labs from all across North America participate.

Laboratory Statistics - 1988

Sample Description	Number Completed
Farmer's Soils	5670
Research & Special Project Soils	1243
Home Gardens	970
Greenhouse Soils	402
Farmer's Feed	4359
Research & Special Project Feeds	195
Farmer's Plant Tissue Samples	1028
Research & Special Project Plant Tissues	1325
Water Chemical Samples	2901
Manure Samples	30
Other	313
Total	18,436

Extension Plant Pathology

The Prince Edward Island Provincial Plant Diagnostic Service provides identification and recommendations of disease problems related to potatoes and other crops. For the 1988 potato growing season, climatic conditions were adequate. However, the planting period was delayed due to an exceptionally wet spring. There was an adequate amount of rainfall throughout the growing season in most areas of the province. This in turn, slightly increased the incidence of foliar diseases; Late Blight (number of reported cases increased from two for 1987 to eight for 1988), and Botrytis vine rot (number of reported cases increased from six for 1987 to seven for 1988). The number of reported Early Blight outbreaks was reduced from eight in 1987 to five for the 1988 growing season. This may be due to the fact that Early Blight is related more to stress factors such as inadequate moisture. The most common disease which was noted in significant levels (25%) in all major varieties was Verticillium wilt. As well, cent Rhizoctonia was found in significant amounts (10%).

In conclusion, the quality of the 1988 potato crop has improved greatly over last year's crop. This is primarily due to improved weather conditions during the growing period.

Additional storage rot disorders which have been identified include pinkeye, blackleg and bacterial soft rot.

Some pilot projects which were carried out in order to address some of the concerns of P.E.I. Potato Producers included: a Potato Roguing Workshop on the identification of virus diseases for P.E.I. Potato Roguing Teams; Common Scab Trial Plots which were initiated in order to analyze a specific control measure for common scab on potatoes; monitoring of the Yukon Gold Potato Variety for a combination physiological and/or pathogenic disease complex; and, the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Potato Scouting Program.

The Potato Late Blight Forecast Program is a service to potato producers for scheduling timely fungicide applications in order to control Late Blight. There was a total of 10 Late Blight Forecast Stations strategically located on Prince Edward Island. The program started May 2 and finished September 30. Features of the 1988 program included reading accumulated rainfall at all 10 stations, installing a new toll-free code-a-phone system to provide easier grower access to the program, extending the length of the program for an additional month, and investigating a "new" Late Blight Forecast System under the Potato Scouting Program.

Potato Pathology Project:Potato Early Dying

In July of 1988, a project on potato early dying complex was established as a new initiative of the Department. The project is under the supervision of the Provincial Plant Pathologist. Based on the diagnosis of positive cases recorded in previous years by the provincial Plant Pathologist, the complex is a serious problem in potato fields across Prince Edward Island.

The primary objective of the early dying project is to identify the organisms associated with early dying, and thus evaluate disease loss at different locations and in different varieties.

A brief outline of the project was published in the Department's potato newsletter to create grower awareness of the project. Sampling of the fields began in early August in response to requests from growers and continued until late September. Stems, soil, and tubers are diagnosed for various organisms including Verticillium, Fusarium, Rhizoctonia, root-lesion nematodes, etc.

In addition, some investigations were carried out regarding nematodes in carrots. This work was carried out jointly between the province and Agriculture Canada.

Potato Disease Control Program

The Potato Disease Control Program combines all programs and policies directed toward the control, and eventual eradication of potato diseases, namely Bacterial Ring Rot. Activities included on-farm disinfection of all potato handling and storage equipment, disinfection of pallets at potato export wharves, disinfection of potato

transports at points of entry to P.E.I., disinfection of vehicles delivering to Cavendish Farms, Potato Cull Burial Assistance Program, de-contamination of positive and contact Bacterial Ring Rot premises.

Plant Disease Eradication Act

The Seed Incentive Program, under the Plant Disease Eradication Act provides a $30 per acre payment to growers who have complied with regulations when disposing of positive and contact Bacterial Ring Rot crops. The $30 per acre payment is calculated on the acreage of Foundation Class seed planted the year following an infection. In 1988, 16 growers received Seed Incentive Payments.

The Potato Disease Control Committee met twice in 1988. Established under the Act as an advisory committee to the Minister, the committee has representatives from the Marketing Commission, Agriculture Canada, P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and the potato industry.

Under the Act, it is a requirement that all positive infected and contact farms be cleaned and disinfected prior to the growing of further crops. During 1988, the Disinfection Service disinfected 13 farms under the provisions of the Act. The same 13 farms received 100 % assistance on all costs associated with burial of contaminated material.

Potato Cull Burial Assistance Program

The Potato Cull Burial Assistance Program is available to all Island Potato Producers. The program provides assistance for the cost of burial of cull and/or unsaleable potatoes. During the 1988 season, the program was extended to cover 100 percent of all costs associated with burial, including removal from storage, transportation to the site, and final burial. Under normal circumstances the program covers 50 percent of burial costs only. However, due to marketing problems with the 1988 crop, a large volume of potatoes was left unsold, thus warranting the extension of the program. A total of 182 growers disposed of potatoes under the program.

Disinfection

The accompanying table summarizes the activities of the Disinfection Service. Farm equipment disinfections include: bin pilers, planters, graders, harvesters, bulk boxes, tractors, etc. During 1988 several steam cleaning units were replaced by cold water, high-pressure wash units. This has resulted in reduced time spent on farms and decreased waiting time for growers.

Three grower/dealers were licensed in the fall of 1988 on a trial basis to disinfect transport vehicles being loaded on their own premises.

A new disinfection technique was demonstrated as a new initiative of the Department in October 1988. Chloropicrin (99%) was used to fumigate a potato storage and initial results indicate the fumigant was effective in killing fungal, bacterial and volunteer potato growth in the storage.

Disinfections Completed by Mobile Disinfection Crews

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
Pallets											
Wharf/Farm	3511	1256	2294	7832	2783	5191	3119	4432	11639	9246	6420
Commercial											
Transports	455	300	589	525	396	275	173	53	504	362	510
Farm Equipment	102	201	1555	4641	3467	2885	2498	7055	6775	2075	1456
Total	4068	1757	4438	12998	6646	8351	5790	11540	18918	11683	8386
										TOTAL	94,575

Disinfections Completed at Stationary Disinfection Locations (Transport Vehicles)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	Total
Albany	1146	1008	1299	1241	930	537	195	43	476	800	1053	9128
Wood Islands				21	137	95	33	59	85	138	66	634
Cavendish	537	705	1164	906	314	1002	378		1874	4496	1142	12518
											TOTAL	22,280

Retail Tablestock Inspection Service

Potatoes and turnips grown and in turn sold on Prince Edward Island do not require federal inspection, thus it has become the responsibility of the province to provide a Retail Tablestock Inspector to ensure quality standards are met under the Agricultural Products Standards Act.

The Inspector routinely visits all retail outlets (240 per month) across Prince Edward Islands. Apart from routine inspections, the Inspector responds to complaints from consumers. As part of the education process, growers are visited to discuss quality standards.

The Inspector was also actively involved with the Potato Grading Schools held in O'Leary, Kinkora, and Charlottetown.

Special Services

The Lab and Disinfection Section assisted in a number of extension activities during the past year. The 1988 Anti-Bruise Campaign was co-ordinated during the harvest season. Various personnel were instructed in the catechol bruise detection technique and consequently a bruise test series was offered to growers.

Farm calls were made to 18 potato growers as part of the Anti-Bruise Program during the 1988 potato harvesting season. The purpose of these calls was to demonstrate the use of the catechol test for bruise detection, determine the amount of bruising that was occurring during the harvesting process, and pinpoint the exact location on the harvesting equipment where the most severe damage was taking place.

Twenty harvesters and seventeen windrowers were tested. In addition, chain speed ratios were tested on one harvester to determine if the harvester was in proper adjustment.

Results from the tests revealed damage levels as low as 5% in some operations, while others had damage as high as 65% (in one case). The average amount of bruising for all operations would fall into the 10-20% range. This figure will vary from year to year depending on conditions, however a 10-20% average is too high and a more acceptable range would be 5-10%.

The Anti-Bruise Program is making the producers more aware of the whole aspect of damage from bruising. This can be supported by the fact that a number of growers were trained in the detection procedure, and carried out their own testing during the season.

It should be noted that the extremely adverse weather conditions this past fall would account for an increase in the amount of bruising that occurred during the harvesting process.

The "Making The Grade" Seminar was co-ordinated by the section - the 1988 theme being "Potato Production For Quality". Speakers from Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island addressed various aspects of quality potato production.

An information newsletter to potato growers, "The Extender", was introduced this year with the first issue mailed out in June. All aspects of potato production are covered including promotion of current programs. The mailing list is growing as related industry people become aware of the newsletter.

Engineering Section

The Engineering Section carries out programs and extension work in the areas of farm buildings, farm machinery, land drainage, soil and water conservation, chemical application equipment calibration and safety.

Farm Buildings

The Farm Buildings Program provides a planning and design service as well as general extension information on farm buildings systems to all agricultural producers.

During 1988 the major farm building activity in the province dealt with potato storages and ventilation systems within these storages. As a result, plans were provided for 14 potato storages, 12 potato grading rooms, and 8 potato storage ventilation systems. Two large potato storages that utilize a flumeing system for movement of potatoes were constructed. Financial assistance from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) stimulated the construction of several producer group storages. Plans were also provided for 13 swine buildings, 5 dairy barns, 3 forage storages, 1 deep pit poultry barn, 3 beef facilities as well as structures for other commodities including, horses, foxes, sheep, horticultural crops and greenhouses.

The District Engineer located in Summerside provided Prince County producers with farm building extension information. This position was vacant for four months of 1988, and during this period responses to engineering information requests in Prince County were provided by the Charlottetown staff.

During the year the District Engineer provided approximately 80 building plans as well as prepared 20 new building plans for producers. Recommendations were also provided for management of ventilation systems, environmental aspects of livestock manure management, hay drying systems, building material selection and farmstead planning.

The draftsman completed 52 new building plans as well as revised several present plans. Approximately 150 plan sets and 200 information leaflets were distributed to the farm operators. During the year the draftsman provided technical assistance to producers via 48 farm calls and 87 office interviews and site inspections for several farm building projects.

In addition to supervising the programs of the Engineering and Land Resources Section, the Engineering

Supervisor/Farm Buildings Engineer provided information and farm building plans to producers in Queens and Kings counties. Fifty-five farm calls and seventy-five office interviews were conducted regarding dissemination of farm building information.

During the period of June to October, the Engineering Supervisor was on a leave of absence from the Department of Agriculture while conducting a Potato Storage Requirements Study for Uruguay. During this period of time, the farm buildings extension engineering was provided by an Agricultural Engineer under a short-term contract.

The Engineering Supervisor was involved in several special projects such as a re-drafting of job descriptions for engineering staff, renovations to the P.E.I. Quality Swine Unit, hosting of the Canada Plan Service Annual Meeting in Charlottetown, preparation of engineering articles for CornerPost, P.E.I. Potato Storage Survey, environmental aspects of livestock manure management, administration of the Canada Plan Service in the Province and activities associated with Regional and National engineering organizations and committees.

Farm Machinery Extension

The farm machinery program was re-focused this year to recognize the importance of the P.E.I. Potato Industry. Approximately 50 percent of the Farm Machinery Specialist's time is now directed toward that sector.

Efforts during 1988 concentrated on bruise reduction in the harvesting and field handling of potatoes. A video was produced describing on the current status of potato harvester operations and the areas where bruising occurs as well as demonstrating some bruise reduction techniques.

The Machinery Specialist participated in the first meeting of a regional anti-bruise committee. In addition to P.E.I., representives from New Brunswick, Maine and Agriculture Canada were present. The Machinery Specialist participated in three potato grading seminars across the province.

In co-operation with the Soil and Water Conservation Engineer, a video on the operation of potato equipment on diversion terraces was completed and distributed to all provincial district agriculture offices and resource centres.

The Machinery Specialist attended the Engineering Section Meetings of the European Association of Potato Researchers in Britain from September 12-16. This included two day attendance at a British Potato Marketing Board Demonstration of Potato Harvesting and Handling Equipment. A visit was made to the Scottish Centre of Agricultural Engineering (SCAE) on September 20 and 21. The SCAE is charged with the responsibility of potato mechanization research in the U.K.

The Machinery Specialist continued to act as a resource person to other programs within the Department such as ALFI, Small Farms, Cereals and Forages, and to serve as secretary of the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Power and Machinery and a number of ad hoc committees on Chemical Application. Planning efforts were begun in 1988 towards the 1989 Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show.

Soil and Water Conservation

The major activity of the Soil and Water Conservation Engineer and technical staff was providing plans for the Soil and Water Management and Conservation Program. In 1988, 115 new applications were received bringing the total number of applications to 524 over the first four years of the program.

Detailed plans were provided for 148 projects and 70 final inspections were completed. Total planning under the Soil and Water Management and Conservation Program during 1988 included 1.35 million feet of tile drainage, 64,000 feet of open ditching, 12,500 feet of grassed waterways and 23,000 feet of diversion terracing. In addition 700 acres of land were surveyed so that winter planning could be completed for diversion terrace and strip cropping work being proposed for 1989. Accurate "as built" drawings were provided for 125,000 feet of tile drainage. Actual installations of tile drainage in 1988 exceeded 700,000 feet.

The Soil and Water Engineering staff was also involved with the installation of monitoring systems at the four sites for the Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) Diversion Terrace Project. Considerable effort was required to instrument three of the sites for automated monitoring of soil temperature, soil moisture, precipitation, flow rates and water sampling so that the benefits of diversion terraces could be quantified. Several tours of the diversion terrace sites were provided during the year. Extensive inputs were made with a second PEP Program involving the benefits of irrigation as it affects potato yields and quality. A summer student was assigned to this project to analyze fertility requirements, soil moisture levels and irrigation scheduling as well as satisfying stream alteration permit requirements.

However, the wet weather conditions during 1988 did not lead to significant requirements for irrigation. A new computer program for irrigation scheduling was used extensively and provided excellent results.

Seven presentations on land drainage and or soil conservation were made during the year. In addition a TV program on Soil Conservation and nine newspaper and radio interviews were completed on the topic. Factsheets were prepared entitled "Benefits of Farm Drainage" and, "Management and Maintenance of the Farm Drainage System." In co-operation with the Farm Machinery Engineer a video was prepared on farm equipment operation between diversion terraces. A display of Soil and Water Conservation activities in the province was set up and staffed at the Atlantic Land Improvement Conservation Association (ALICA) Industrial Equipment Show held in Moncton and the Summerside Industrial Trade Show. Recommendations were made regarding eligible candidates for the Soil and Crop Provincial Conservation Award.

Digitized drawings of commonly used Soil and Water details, title blocks and legends were prepared in Automated Computer Aid Drafting (ACAD). These digitized drawings appear on all plans as required. The design of diversion terraces using ACAD as well as layout of these systems in the field using computerized surveying equipment were also perfected during the year.

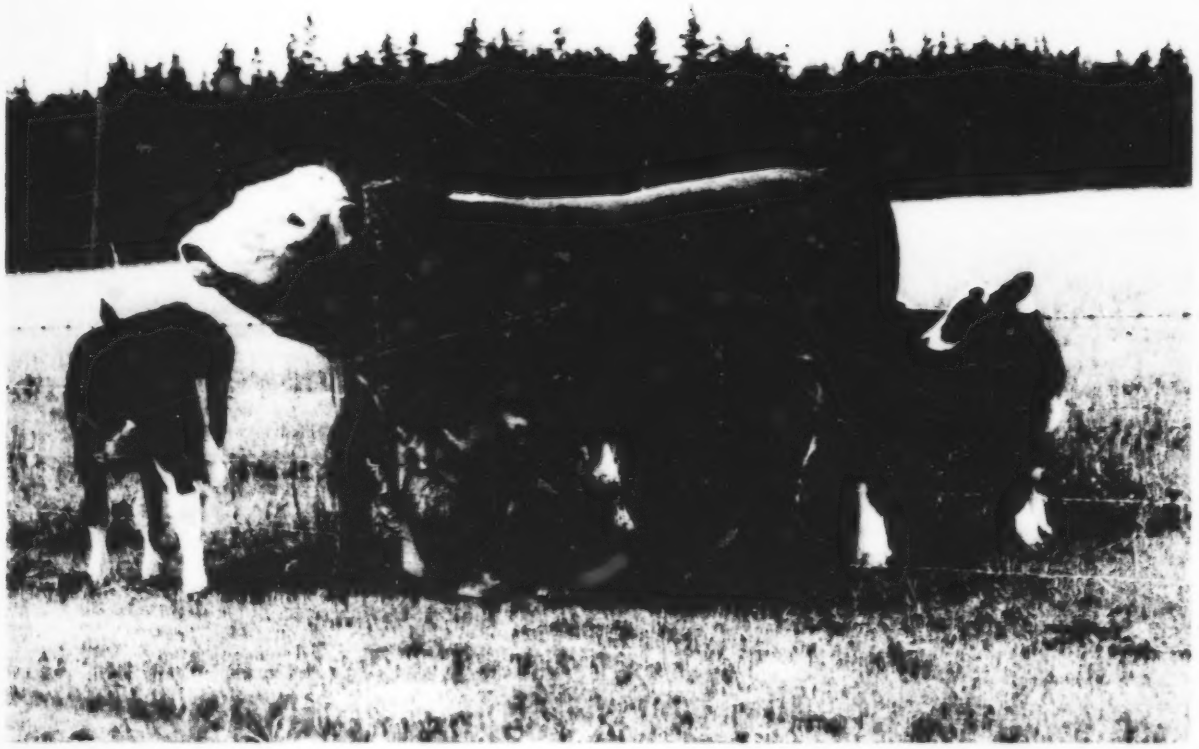
The Engineering Section maintains three subsoilers which were loaned out to a total of 20 farmers during the year.

Chemical Application Equipment Calibration Project

In April 1988 funding of the Chemical Application Equipment Calibration Project under the Human Resource Development section of the Atlantic Livestock Feed Initiative (ALFI) began. The three-year project has been given a shortened name for simplicity as the ALFI Calibration Project. Office space has been located in the Farm Centre and the project employs a project engineer and a summer student.

The main objective of the project is to provide a specialized extension service to Prince Edward Island farmers specifically on the calibration of chemical application equipment. The project approach is to bring this service to the farmer and his equipment, working directly with him on a one-to-one basis. A fully equipped service van allows project staff to have "on-site" all of the testing equipment and tools required to make calibration adjustments. During the first season of operation 58 farms were visited and the chemical application equipment on these farms was calibrated. Approximately 500 people were addressed on the importance of proper chemical application during 13 speaking engagements.

During the winter months, the aim of the project is to develop and provide training courses on chemical application. Arrangements have been completed for the Pesticide Education Course that will be offered during the period January to April 1989. This included instructor training as well as modification of the Ontario Grower Pesticide Safety Course Manual to reflect P.E.I. provincial regulations. A spray booth has been constructed and located at Belmont Street facility to allow the testing of spray nozzles on a year-round basis.



Livestock Division

The reorganization of the Department resulted in added responsibility for the Livestock Division. Two new term positions, a Fur Technician and an Equine Technician, were added. The Swine Minimal Disease Program and the slaughter check and livestock health support programs were transferred to the Division from the former "Animal Industry Branch". This included the part-time Swine Veterinarian position and a Swine Technician. The Dairy Specialist position and Udder Health Technologist were transferred to the new Dairy Section. The major emphasis is on upgrading of productivity and efficiency of Prince Edward Island producers. As part of that upgrading process, the Livestock Division encouraged increased participation in health management and production recording programs for beef, swine, and dairy. The division also saw increased activity in the management and productivity portion of the Swine Incentive Program, although activity decreased in the advance portion of the program.

Livestock Section

Major activities of the Livestock Section included

- Record of Performance (ROP) services for beef, sheep, and swine to assist in selecting breeding stock. Decentralization of ROP records processing has gone ahead more slowly than expected. The beef program has gone ahead satisfactorily, the swine program is proceeding with Estimated Breeding Values now being calculated, and the sheep program is not yet complete.
- a ration formulation service for all classes of livestock
- forage quality information program
- disease testing services for poultry and fur bearing animals
- slaughter checks in market hogs to determine disease levels
- extension programs such as courses, newsletters and information meetings for all livestock commodities
- working with APHIN on the animal productivity and health information network.

Beef Commodity

In 1988, feedlots received reduced returns primarily due to higher feeder prices and lower finished cattle prices. These reduced returns resulted in a drop of 15 cents per pound on feeder calves this fall.

Cattle slaughter at federally inspected plants decreased by 6.4 percent to 26,077 head of P.E.I. origin as of December 29, 1988. There were 6709 cattle slaughtered in provinically inspected slaughter houses, which is a decrease of 1142 head.

Beef ROP

In the 1987/88 testing year, there were 80 herds on ROP with 1090 animals completing test.

There is still a very strong demand to test bulls at the Maritime Bull Test Station. Twenty-one Island producers are testing 49 bulls during the 1988/89 test. The test station which was expanded in 1985 is now filled to capacity.

The station sale has again proven popular with commercial cattlemen from the Maritimes and Quebec. The April sale had an average price of $1970 on 71 bulls compared to last year's average of $1569 on 70 bulls.

Assistance Programs

The Bull Bonus Program, offered by the Department to encourage the use of superior herd sires, paid a total assistance of $48,395 on 110 bulls to 107 producers. The Lean Beef Program is an expanded version of the Cow-Calf Development Program. The key sections under the Lean Beef Program are

- Weaning Weight Section
- Preconditioning
- Assistance with Bred Heifer Sales and the purchase of superior quality beef semen
- Blue Tag Section
- Handling Facilities

There were 250 producers enrolled on the Weaning Weight Section in 1988. The Department will provide weighing and data entry services for approximately 5000 calves on these farms. Approximately 10 percent of these calves will be preconditioned this year.

A Bred Heifer Sale was held on November 12. Thirty-eight heifers were offered for sale. The average price was $840 which is approximately $100 above beef prices. Four new bulls were selected from Western Breeders in Alberta for use in our artificial insemination program. The Hereford, Charolais, Limousin and Red Angus bulls are offered at regular beef semen prices to Island producers. Assistance of 40 percent of purchase cost on handling facilities and scales is a new feature of the Lean Beef Program. Sixty-five applications have been received to date.

Extension Activities

Extension activities included cow-calf seminars, the Easter Beef Show and Sale, joint work with the Cattlemen's Association on feeding trials using beef steers, bimonthly newsletter, CornerPost articles, radio programs and beef tours. The Section also assisted with exhibitions by providing clerking and/or judging for various classes. Assistance was provided to the Joint Beef Breeds Association for its activities.

Sheep Commodity

The sheep industry has stabilized with relatively firm prices and good demand locally for Island lamb. There is still a market for Island purebred breeding stock outside the region.

Marketing

The majority of Island lambs in 1988 were sold through the weekly auction sales in Truro, N.S. The P.E.I. Lamb Co-op is the other major purchaser of lamb in the province. They purchase lambs from Co-op members and market them directly to local stores. There were 838 lambs slaughtered at provincially inspected facilities in 1987 which is a decrease of 131 from last year. Other sales are direct farmgate and through N.B. Sheep Breeders Co-op.

ROP

There were 350 lambs from 15 flocks tested under the sheep ROP program in 1988.

Extension Activities

Extension activities during the year included a sheep newsletter, assistance with the breeding stock sale, sheep tour as well as extensive work with the Sheep Breeders Association and the Lamb Co-op.

Swine

The 1988 year has been difficult for Island swine producers. Expansion of the U.S. industry and high feed prices are two of the reasons for this.

The Swine Incentive Program continues to assist new producers. Monthly payments and a weaner pig adjustment to stabilization have cushioned the effect on established producers. Due to these factors, 1988 hog slaughter is currently about 3.5 percent over 1987.

The swine industry with government assistance is co-operating with the Garden Province Meat Inc. to implement slaughter and monitoring techniques aimed at reducing costs.

ROP, Boar And Gilt Bonus Policy

There are 11 conventional and 6 minimal disease breeders participating in the ROP program with all of them selling breeding stock. Eight other farms probed gilts for selection of breeding herd replacements.

Slaughter checks were done on 1313 pigs for 11 minimal disease breeders and 1483 pigs for 53 other producers to identify the presence of production-limiting diseases such as rhinitis and pneumonia.

Minimal Disease Stock

	Qualified	Disqualified
Boars tested	217	205
Boars sold	98	
Gilts tested	1359	497
Gilts sold	874	

Three breeders tested 41 boars at the Nappan test station.

Conventional Stock

Boars tested	343	87
Boars sold	184	
Gilts tested	618	116
Gilts sold	334	

Two breeders tested 36 boars at the Nappan test station.

Swine Incentive Program

The following tables represent activity under the Swine Incentive Program

Swine Incentive Program

	1985	1986	1987	1988
Number of applicants (total)	340	450	495	535
Market hog base	137,964	145,254	145,479	145,932
Weaner base	106,094	124,677	126,215	127,451
Advances				
Applications (total)	49	71	92	93
Predicted feederhog increase	21,666	34,238	44,985	41,993
Predicted weaner increase	18,500	21,991	27,642	34,347
Amounts paid each year				
Direct increased production($)	59,560	459,761	537,689	729,714
Support on hogs marketed($)	459,131	983,768	694,146	320,632
Advances paid($)	323,929	419,096	228,497	117,863
Minimal disease assistance($)	960	17,040	14,730	5,010
Management incentive($)	0	19,487	27,517	34,694
Advances approved, but not yet claimed($)	311,228	204,654	24,318	18,240

Production of market hogs for the year 1988 is in excess of 190,000 head, an increase of 3.5% over 1987.

Swine Productivity Program

During 1988 there were 65 active and 10 inactive producers in this program. They represented a total of 3132

sows or about 24 percent of the P.E.I. sow herd. The average production within the program was:

Pigs born alive per litter	10.4
Percent of pigs born dead	5.4
Pigs weaned per litter	9.1
Percent weaned	87.7
Litters per sow per year	2.1
Pigs weaned per sow per year	19.3
Avg. days to market (Farrow to Finish)	209.0
Total Mortality (Farrow To Finish)	17.3

Minimal Disease Program in Island Swine Herds

The Minimal Disease Program continues to expand and involve more producers. This three-tier system allows Island farrowing operations to purchase breeding stock from the Multiplier Breeders who purchase their breeding replacements from the Grandview Central Unit. Facility renovations at the Unit in 1988 include the installation of a liquid feeding system and alterations to the farrowing area.

A Department Veterinarian certifies the Central Unit and the Multiplier Breeders monthly for health and security. Monthly visitations, monthly slaughter checks and bi-annual serology provide the data for this continued certification in 1989. Eight conventional producers depopulated and repopulated with minimal disease breeding stock this year under the Departmental Veterinarian supervision and therefore are eligible for the $30 gilt payment.

Extension Activities

- Swine Nutrition Days in Summerside and Charlottetown (150 producers)
- Health Management Clinics in Charlottetown and O'Leary
- Swine Issues in Montague (40 producers)
- Swine AI Course in October (20 producers)
- Least Cost Ration Course
- Mill Calibration Computing
- hosting of the Canadian Swine Improvement Advisory Board Meetings in Charlottetown (3 days)
- fifteen articles for the Hog Newsletter, Island Farmer, Farm Focus, and CornerPost (special producer profile feature included)
- Farm Audit Project in which a team approach to farm analysis was employed (15 farms)
- factsheet supply update to the present year
- five radio broadcasts on the farm morning show plus two Sunday broadcasts
- demonstration of a newly constructed farrowing unit (200 producers)
- support work at Island fairs
- vet student tours to two operations (50 students)
- Vet College and Garden Province Tours (numerous)
- attendance of the N.S. Pork Conference, Nappan Boar Sale, industry and producer association meetings
- Swine Incentive and Swine Productivity calls
- planning for a Maritime Pork Conference - lectures at AVC to first year students
- participation in Maritime Farm Worker Certification Program
- supervision of ongoing PEP and ALFI Projects

Poultry

Egg Production

P.E.I. had 31 registered egg producers representing 120,000 layers. This is an increase of one producer. Our remaining egg quota of 22,760 layers is divided among smaller production units of less than 300 birds each.

Egg production per hen is unchanged at 22 dozen marketable eggs per year for white layers and 18 dozen for brown layers. The Egg Commodity Board purchased approximately 61,755 15- dozen boxes as surplus eggs which were sold to the breaking industry in Quebec. This is up 10.9 percent from last year. Approximately 35 percent of our annual production is surplus to our requirements.

Our egg industry is self-sufficient in raising replacement pullets. Producers purchased approximately 105,000 pullet chicks in 1988.

A total of 610 blood samples were analyzed for vaccination immunity. P.E.I. had one serious outbreak of Infectious Laringotracheitis (ILT) in a flock of 15,000 layers. The flock was destroyed and buried.

Broiler and Roaster Production

Island farmers purchased approximately 733,000 chickens, an increase of 32 percent over 1987. P.E.I. has four commercial broiler farms in production, however there are 970,000 kg of Island chicken quota still unused mainly due to limited processing capacity.

Island production of heavy chicken has increased annually by five percent. Approximately 100,000 birds were raised in small flocks and processed at the two registered poultry plants or by the producer.

Turkey Production

Turkey production is down about 10 percent with an estimated 45,000 pullets purchased by Island farmers. All are marketed locally mainly at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Waterfowl Production

Waterfowl production has remained steady this year and is estimated at 10,000 geese and 5,000 ducks. All are marketed for the holiday market.

Other Activities

The P.E.I. Egg Commodity Marketing Board has continued to service the egg industry well, while the P.E.I. Marketing Council administers the activities of the P.E.I. Chicken Marketing Board.

There were 255 birds examined at the pathology lab. Two commercial hatchery supply flocks and nineteen bird fanciers flocks were blood tested and vaccinated for a total of 7800 birds.

Eight poultry shows were held on the Island with approximately 1200 birds judged during the summer. Three exhibitors sent birds to the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair in Toronto.

The P.E.I. Game Bird Association is active in promoting various game bird species.

The egg promotion committee met four times, the egg quality committee met five times and the Poultry Specialist participated in seven Egg Board meetings.

The Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency and The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency and The Egg Producers Council held annual meetings in the province this year.

Two Island processing plants, Waddell's Ltd. in Crapaud and Laurie Bell's in Alberton, are serving the needs of our smaller producers.

Our one pheasant and quail farm is continuing to hatch and grow specialty birds. About 6500 pheasants and 2500 quail were hatched in 1988.

Nutrition

In 1988, 4594 feed samples were processed through the P.E.I. Feed Testing Laboratory. The results from these analyses were used either for ration balancing or ration evaluation. Recommendations for ration preparation and proper feeding rates continued to be required on a daily basis. Hulless oats and sweet white lupins commanded a great deal of attention as opportunity feeds for livestock production. Additional areas of interest in nutrition over the past year included

- quality control practices in relation to on-farm feed production
- relative dollar value of various feed grain available for use in livestock feeds
- the use of fish meal as a source of bypass protein in rations for lactating dairy animals
- feeding systems to improve efficiency of feed utilization and reduce labour on all types of livestock operations
- detection of a number of cases of oxidized milk on Island dairy farms

This was the sixth year for the Forage Quality Program. Each week during the growing season a report was issued on the quality of forage as it grew in the field to assist farmers in their harvesting decisions.

Educational activities this year dealt with a variety of subjects as listed below:

Event	Attendance
Least Cost Kation Workshop for Swine	40
Heifer Raising Workshop	11
Charlottetown Alfalfa Day	50
Hay Dryer Workshop	20
O'Leary Alfalfa Day	20
Feeds and Feeding	50
Three Pasture Workshops	45

Over 150 swine farmers took the opportunity to attend one of the two "Swine Day" information sessions at which Dr. Phil Thacker, Swine Nutritionist from the University of Saskatchewan was the keynote speaker.

Dairy producers had the opportunity to tour dairy operations and discuss management practices with their counterparts in Quebec and Wisconsin on two tours organized by the Livestock Section. Travel expenses for the tour to the World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin were funded through the Human Resources subsection of the ALFI Agreement.

Fur

The number of ranched furs marketed declined in a weak market. Mutation fox furs were particularly difficult to sell and sold at drastically reduced prices for the 1987/88 year.

Ranched Fur Production

	84/85	85/86	86/87	87/88
Fox	11,162	12,790	17,590	15,696
Mink	8,762	10,553	14,656	14,447

Extension activities included participating at shows, newsletters and working with the P.E.I. Fur Breeders Association, as well as with individual ranchers. The Department also provided assistance to train six ranchers in artificial insemination of foxes. Assistance in testing for Aleutian disease on mink is provided. In late October a Fur Technician was hired by the Department.

Diagnostic Services Program

The Department contracted with the Atlantic Veterinary College to provide all diagnostic services for livestock, companion animals, fish and wildlife. These services were provided to all residents free of charge. Laboratory tests have become essential to an accurate diagnosis of the diseases that are important to livestock producers. AVC provides services from the hematalogy, clinical chemistry, histopathology, electron microscopy, post mortem, bacteriology and parasitology laboratories.

Livestock Health Services

The Department pays part of the cost of providing livestock health services to producers. The assistance is paid to the four designated clinics; West Prince Veterinary Service, Kensington Veterinary Clinic, Charlottetown Veterinary Clinic, 1981 Ltd and Montague Veterinary Clinic, 1978 Inc.

The assistance provided consists of the following:

Clinical Services Program

- Zone fee 100%
- $25/hour of the professional fees

Basic Health Management

- Zone fee 100%
- $9 or 50% of the call fee
- $33/hour or 50% of the professional fees

Intensive Health Management Program

- - Zone fee 100%
- $9 or 50% of the call fee
- $44/hour or 67% of the professional fee

Meat Inspection Program

- Zone fee 100%
- $18 or 100% of the call fee
- $3 per head Livestock Salesbarn Inspection Program
- Zone fee 100%
- $18 or 100% of the call fee
- $66/hour or 100% of the professional fee

Activity in these programs can be summarized as follows

Service	Calls	Cost
Clinical Services	11,589	$423,709
Basic Herd Health	9,411	$444,826
Intensive Herd Health (7 months - new program)	370	$ 27,940
Meat Inspection	1,580	$ 97,270
Livestock Salesbarn	78	$ 14,352

Miscellaneous

The Livestock Section provided assistance to 16 different breed associations. Assistance was also provided to 29 breeders exhibiting livestock at the Maritime exhibition; 139 cattle, 104 sheep, 14 horses, 21 goats. Twenty-six breeders were assisted to show 61 cattle (including 4-H), 39 swine, 9 sheep and 1 horse at the Royal Winter Fair.

The Department paid grants towards 10 foals under the Draft Horse Improvement Policy.

Extension activities included sponsoring information meetings for horse associations, plus supplying information on a request basis. The half-time Equine extension worker position was filled in December of this year.

Community Pastures

The Evangeline Community Pasture operated privately with a government grant of $7500 for the second year. The Head of Hillsbrough Pasture was also operated privately this year with assistance for reseeding. Negotiations were continuing with Kelly's Cross and Central Grasslands Co-op in Ellerslie for privatization in 1989. Lauretta Pasture has reduced participation and continues to be expensive to operate on a per-head basis. The number of cattle pastured are shown below.

	1985	1986	1987	1988
Head of Hillsborough	185	101	127	78
Kelly's Cross	784	751	654	754
Wellington	803	500	NA	NA
Ellerslie	1049	888	814	699
Lauretta	542	474	301	252
Total	3363	2740	1896	1783

Performance on the pasture was good, but quite variable, depending on the type of cattle and pasture.

Dairy Section

The dairy industry as a whole was stable in 1988 although both milk and cream producers continued to decline.

	Dec '84	Dec '85	Dec '86	Dec '87	Dec. '88
Industrial producers	478	443	402	371	346
Fluid Producers	139	156	170	183	185
Cream Producers	259	233	210	195	164

Prince Edward Island dairy producers utilized 99.9 percent of the 3,207,000 kg butterfat Market Share Quota allotted for the 1987/88 dairy year ending July 31, 1988. Milk production accounted for 2,955,734 kg and farm-separated cream production accounted for 250,939 kg

The Cream Producers' Assistance Program was administered, distributing approximately $40,000 to farm-separated cream producers for assistance in meeting transportation costs.

Dairy Section staff provided departmental input into the formulation of the Regulations under the Dairy Industry Act. This new legislation replaces the Milk Act, Dairy Products Act, Margarine Act and their accompanying regulations.

Staff represented the Dairy Section of the Department at local, regional and national meetings and at all meetings of the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee.

Liaison was carried on with local producer and processor organizations, the Milk Marketing Board and dairy branches of governments in neighbouring provinces.

Dairy Quality Control

During 1988, the five programs introduced during 1986 continued - Universal Milk Sampling, Iodine Analysis, Somatic Cell Count, Keeping Quality Analysis and Antibiotic Inhibitor Analysis.

Dairy Farm Inspection

The Dairy Farm Inspection Service continued in 1988 with all milk producers in the province receiving an initial inspection of their premises and follow-up visits as required. The farm inspection records the condition of the facilities as well as the sanitary condition of all areas related to quality milk production. These conditions are reflected by numerical scores with the result being a weighted average score for the individual farm. Although this method of inspection may appear to be quite critical of a milk production facility, it is supported by regulation and complements the enforcement of the minimum provisions of the Regulations.

Milk Production and Utilization

Total milk shipments for the dairy year ending in 1988 were approximately 99.7 million litres. Of the 99.7 million litres, 14.3 million litres were utilized as Class I sales. A total of 78.4 million litres was used as Industrial milk shipments and 7.0 million litres as farm- separated cream shipments in milk equivalents.

Weight certificates were issued for 865,275 kg of butter and 1.4 million kg of skim milk powder during 1988.

During 1988, 14 manufacturing plant licenses were issued to P.E.I. Dairy processing plants, including eight Class I milk plants, three industrial milk plants and three creameries. In 1988, we saw the establishment of one new industrial milk plant engaged in Gouda cheese production.

Provincial Dairy Section staff, in co-operation with Agriculture Canada Dairy Section officials conducted in-depth plant inspections on all milk and cream processing plants in P.E.I. As well, follow-up inspections were conducted on two plants which failed to meet a 75% score on the initial inspection.

During 1988, three persons from P.E.I. engaged in milk pickup from farm bulk tanks successfully completed a Bulk Tank Grader's Course and were subsequently issued a license permitting them to pick up and transport bulk milk in the province.

Dairy Lab Services

A Plate Loop Count is performed on product from all Industrial and Class I twice a month in accordance with the Milk Act Regulations. Those producers whose counts exceed the Regulations on the initial analysis are rechecked before the end of the pay period.

During 1988, 15,630 producer samples were analyzed for bacterial numbers. Approximately 1.88% of Industrial and 0.40% of Class I producers exceeded the regulated maximum allowable bacterial count of 300,000/mL and 100,000/mL respectively on their initial sample. Approximately 55.6% of Industrial producers' samples had bacteria counts less than 30,000/mL, a decline of 7% from the previous year; while 81.3% of Class I producers' samples were less than 30,000/mL which is 3.7% better than 1987.

During 1988, the Dairy Lab analyzed 6197 producer samples and 10,297 bulk tank truck samples for the presence of antibiotic residues; 0.45% of producer samples were confirmed to contain antibiotic residues in excess of 0.01 IU, and no truck loads were confirmed to contain antibiotic residues in excess of 0.01 IU. A total of 28 bulk tanks of raw milk were placed under detention for suspected antibiotic contamination and 4 tanks were ordered not to be sold or offered for sale due to the confirmed presence of antibiotic residues. The Lab analyzed 732 samples of processed milk for presence of antibiotic contamination. The modified IDF method is used to determine the presence of antibiotic residues; detectability of 0.0025 IU is possible.

Analysis was also carried out on 10,297 bulk truck loads of milk for the presence of added water. This analysis, based on the freezing point determination of raw milk, will indicate the presence and amount of added water in milk. When load samples show a positive presence of added water, all producers making up the load are tested to determine the offender(s).

Seven hundred eighty-five samples of milk were analyzed for Iodine content. A level of less than 500 ug/L is considered acceptable. None of the samples exceeded this level, and none of the processed milk samples showed a level in excess of 500 ug/L.

Dairy Section Inspection Staff visits all producers who exceed the regulated bacterial limits or have a positive antibiotic or adulteration test result as soon as these results are known; producers receive confirmation of the analysis by mail.

The Dairy Laboratory analyzes all Industrial and Class I producers' butterfat samples for payment basis. This analysis is conducted on a fresh sample each week. During 1988 the Dairy Lab analyzed 25,109 samples for payment; 57,443 samples were analyzed for butterfat and protein content; 66,642 samples were analyzed for Somatic Cell Content; 53 butter samples were obtained for Yeast and Mold analysis; 1232 cream samples were check tested for accuracy and 1929 cans of cream were graded at P.E.I. creameries.

Dairy Herd Analysis Service

The Dairy Herd Analysis Service (DHAS) provides a herd management and milk recording system for diary producers. This service has been provided by a staff of six supervisors under the direction of the Dairy Production Specialist. On October 1, a new organization assumed administration of Milk Recording on a Maritime basis. This new company "Atlantic Dairy Livestock Improvement Corporation" (ADLIC) is directed by a Board of Directors made up of two producer-members from each province, one member from each Provincial Department of Agriculture and one representative of Agriculture Canada. ADLIC has amalgamated the Provincial DHAS and the Agriculture Canada ROP Programs. The new program will use the DHAS Data Processing services from Macdonald College in Quebec. Milk and feed samples will continue to be analyzed in the Department's laboratories.

On October 1, 166 P.E.I. DHAS herds were transferred to ADLIC. This included 78 official and 88 owner-sample herds. ADLIC also assumed 75 P.E.I. ROP herds from Agriculture Canada. The new program is able to provide milk recording services to all dairy producers wishing to enroll.

The P.E.I. Department of Agriculture continues to promote the National Identification program for dairy cattle. In 1988, 486 new animals were enrolled.

Animal Breeding Program

The Artificial Insemination (AI) Program in Prince Edward Island is administered by the P.E.I. Artificial Breeders Association whose membership includes cattle breeders using the service. The P.E.I. Department of Agriculture participates by liaison with management and by providing an annual operating grant. First service breeding for 1988 increased by approximately 600 to 16,800. This modest increase reflects the stabilization of the dairy industry in P.E.I. and also the opportunity for breeders to use a wide range of proven bulls at the competitive cost.

Extension Efforts

The Livestock Section offers dairy extension programs to reduce sub-clinical mastitis and improve milking procedures and equipment use.

Of the 134 farm calls ,104 dealt with milking equipment and procedures, 8 with stray voltage, 6 calls consulted on milker and barn design, 2 dealt with practice milking and 14 were classified as other.

Twelve meetings were held with equipment dealers and representatives, as well as meetings with veterinary clinics and extension staff.

Other dairy extension efforts included

- quarterly somatic cell count reports and comparisons to veterinary clinics and district offices
- awards and recognition to producers with low Somatic Cell Counts
- milking equipment survey update on all dairy farms with the help of a summer student; data was analyzed for relationships with somatic cell counts
- two CornerPost articles and one radio show - two producer tours; Montreal 21 participants and P.E.I. 40 participants
- attendance at symposium on milking machines and mastitis at Harrisburg, Pa. and dairy meeting in Moncton, N.B.
- Dairy Days in Summerside and Charlottetown
- a "Good Manufacturing Practices" course was sponsored by the Department. A total of 47 people participated in the two-day event. They represented the Dairy Section staff, all P.E.I. Fluid processing plants and the two major industrial processing plants.

Department of Agriculture
Financial Statement
Year Ending March 31, 1989

	Expenditure	Revenue (Other than ERDA)
Administration	705,435.43	275.00
Marketing		
Marketing	962,445.86	
Hog Stabilization	1,045,059.81	
Commodity Promotion &Education	150,904.84	
	2,158,410.51	
Plant Industry Services		
Branch Management	203,124.69	
Soil & Feed Testing	316,657.52	
Disease & Weed Control	133,650.01	1,655.00
Potato Industry Services	203,385.22	
Potato Disease Control	845,793.42	
Limestone Incentive	599,990.65	
Land Resources	117,950.90	
	2,420,552.41	1,655.00
Extension Services		
Branch Management	85,916.47	
Farm Development	101,383.57	
District Offices	945,931.45	
Livestock Services	2,482,641.51	65,082.00
Crops	306,852.55	
Rural Development	522,449.82	9,860.00
Agriculture Education	209,626.00	
Grants	294,926.41	6,910.00
Engineering	388,337.09	
Small Farms Program	246,236.73	
Community Pastures	145,203.06	83,887.00
	5,729,504.66	165,739.00
Animal Industry Services		
Branch Management	214,977.11	1,351.00
Veterinary Pathology	856,626.00	3,130.00
Artificial Breeding	219,620.00	
Dairy Laboratory	473,687.23	192.00
Veterinary Services	589,963.87	
Swine Inspection	56,023.71	
	2,410,898.52	4,674.00
Information	223,426.27	
P.E.I. Marketing Council	1,504,719.44	
P.E.I. Crop Insurance	214,258.20	
Potato Commission	60,553.99	
A.L.F.I.	1,205,526.82	1,200,115.00
Capital - Lab Equipment	175,000.00	
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	16,808,286.25	1,374,113.00